

THULU



BY JEPH LOEB

MARVEL

ED McGUINNESS • IAN CHURCHILL
WHILCE PORTACIO • JOHN ROMITA JR.

VOLUME

2

ISSUES

13

PAGES

440

LOEB ★ MCGUINNESS
CHURCHILL ★ PORTACIO
ROMITA JR.

HULK

**MARVEL
COMICS**
★ PRESENTS ★

HULK

★ VOLUME TWO ★
ROUNDS 1-6

★ STARRING: ★
WRITER LOEB
JEPH LOEB

★ ARTISTS ★
**ED
McGUINNESS**
(ROUND 1)

— VS. —
**IAN
CHURCHILL**
(ROUNDS 2-5)

— VS. —
**WHILCE
PORTACIO**
(ROUND 6)



★ INKERS ★
TOM PALMER
(ROUND 1)

— VS. —
MARK FARMER
(ROUNDS 2-5)

— VS. —
DANNY MIKI
(ROUND 6)

★ COLORS ★
DAN BROWN
(ROUND 1)

— VS. —
**PETER STEIGERWALD
AND ASPEN**
(ROUNDS 2-5)

— VS. —
DEAN WHITE
(ROUND 6)

**RICHARD STARKINGS
and COMICRAFT'S
JIMMY BETANCOURT**
★ CORNMEN ★

**MARVEL
COMICS**
★ PRESENTS ★

HULK

★ VOLUME TWO ★
ROUNDS 7-10

★ STARRING: ★
WRITER LOEB
JEPH LOEB

★ ARTISTS ★
**JOHN
ROMITA JR.**
(ROUND 7)

— VS. —
**ED
McGUINNESS**
(ROUNDS 8-10)



★ INKERS ★
**KLAUS
JANSON**
(ROUND 7)

— VS. —
**MARK
FARMER**
(ROUNDS 8-10)

★ COLORS ★
DEAN WHITE
(ROUND 7)

— VS. —
DAVE STEWART
(ROUNDS 8-10)

**RICHARD STARRINGS
and COMICRAFT'S
JIMMY BETANCOURT**
★ CORNMEN ★

**MARVEL
COMICS**
★ PRESENTS ★

HULK

★ VOLUME TWO ★
ROUNDS 11-13

★ STARRING: ★
WRITER **JEPH LOEB**

★ PENCILER ★
**ED
McGUINNESS**

— vs. —
**MARK
FARMER**

★ INKER ★

MORRY HOLLOWELL

— vs. —
CHRIS SOTOMAYOR

★ COLORS ★

RICHARD STARKINGS
and COMICRAFT'S
JIMMY BETANCOURT

★ CORNERSMEN ★



★ GUEST ARTISTS #23 ★

HERB TRIMPE & DAVE McCAIG (P. 1) LEINIL FRANCIS YU, GERRY ALANGUILAN & MARTE GRACIA (PP. 20-23)

TIM SALE & DAVE STEWART (PP. 4-6) JOHN ROMITA JR., KLAUS JANSON, EMILY WARREN & DEAN WHITE (PP. 24-26)

DALE KEOWN (PP. 8-9) ED McGUINNESS, MARK FARMER & JASON KEITH (PP. 27-28)

SAL BUSCEMA & BRAD ANDERSON (PP. 10-12) MIKE DEODATO & RAIN BEREDO (PP. 29-32)

IAN CHURCHILL & EDGAR DELGADO (PP. 14-17)

★ ON THE UNDERCARD ★
WRITER **AUDREY LOEB**

— vs. —
ARTIST **CHRIS GIARRUSSO**
"HULK DOG"

ARTIST **CARLO SILVA & COLORIST CHRIS SOTOMAYOR**
"HULK GYM"

ARTIST **DARIO BRIZUELA**
"HULK MOVIE" ★ "HULK DATE"

"HULK TONSILS"

"HULK DENTIST" ★ "HULK RAIN"

"HULK SNIFFLES"

"HULK SNOW" ★ "HULK CAMPING"

"HULK CAT" ★ "HULK SLEEPOVER"

"HULK MARKET" ★ "HULK SCIENCE"

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RACHEL YOUNG**

ROUND ★ ONE



HULK NO MORE



ISSUE 13 COVER ★ ED McGUINNESS, TOM PALMER & DAN BROWN

*They say when you go through
the death of someone you love
there are five stages of relief.*

I meant.

Grief.



*Odd that I would
make that mistake.*

Grief.

Relief.



*I suppose that's the kind
of conversation I could
have with Leonard...*

*...If Samson were the kind of
man I could ever trust again.*



*For the longest time I've
lived with a nightmare.*

*That the monster inside
me would come out.*

*That it would
never end.*



Unthinkable.

Unstoppable.

Un...loved.

NO MORE!



*A monster that
I, alone, created.*

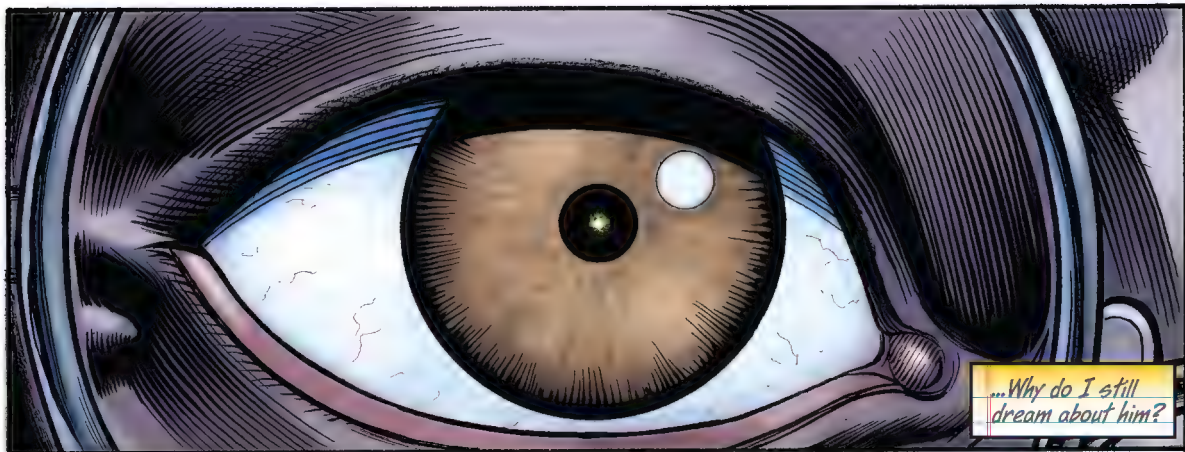


*Causing destruction in every
aspect of my life. Love. Family.*

Everything.



*And now that I've woken up
from the nightmare...*



*...Why do I still
dream about him?*



*Is it that I trapped him inside
of me for so long that I'm not
ready to deal with his death?*



*All I wanted was
to be rid of him...*

*...Shouldn't saying good-bye be
the easiest thing in the world?*



*I know in my heart
that I have to move
on with my life...*

...except...



*I don't believe
THE HULK is dead...*

OFFICE OF NORMAN OSBORN.
AVENGERS TOWER.
NEW YORK CITY.
THAT NIGHT.

I DON'T
BELIEVE IT.
I DON'T BELIEVE
THE HULK
IS DEAD.

I HEARD IT
FROM A GUY WHO
KNOWS A GUY
WHO WORKS AT
A.I.M.

"A GUY
WHO KNOWS
A GUY."

WHAT
GUY? AND
WHY WOULD
HE TELL
YOU?

DO YOU
THINK HE SAID
IT TO TRY AND
IMPRESS
YOU?

MAYBE.

TO GET
YOU TO GO
TO BED WITH
HIM?

MAY
I GO NOW,
MISTER
OSBORN?

GOOD NIGHT,
MS. MARVEL.



WHAT DID YOU THINK OF HER STORY?

THIS CAN'T BE THE FIRST TIME A CLAIM LIKE THAT HAS BEEN MADE.



NO...NO, IT HASN'T. I'VE EVEN READ A REPORT THAT INSISTED BANNER AND THE HULK WERE SEPARATED AT ONE POINT...

...AND THAT CERTAINLY DOESN'T SEEM POSSIBLE.



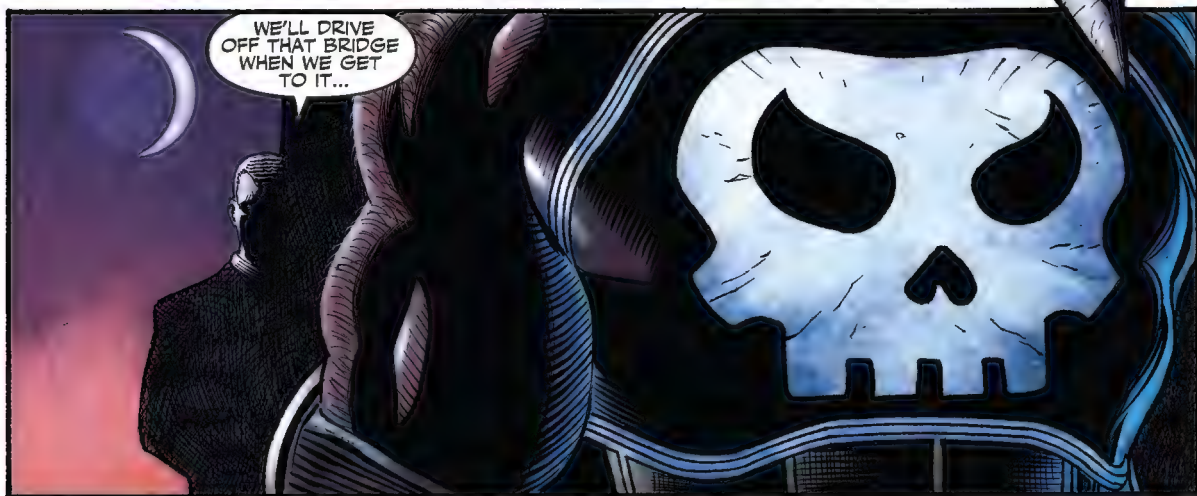
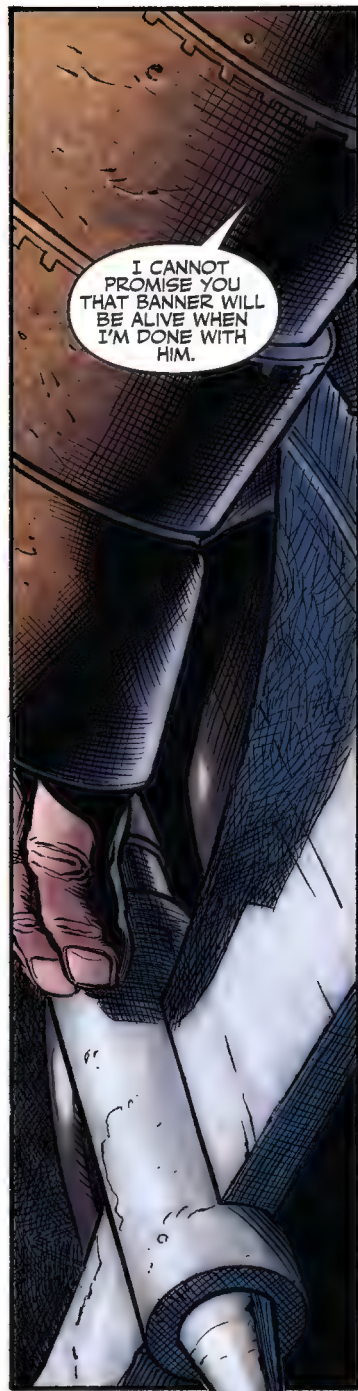
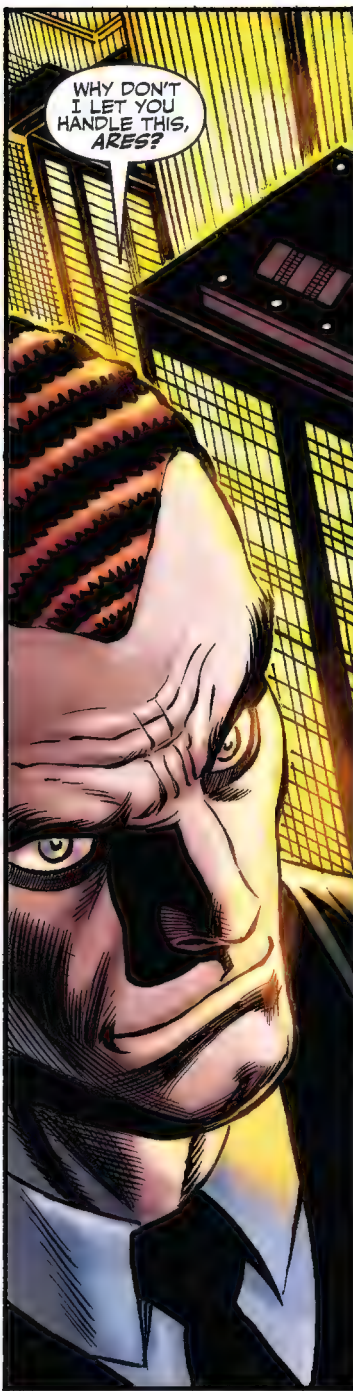
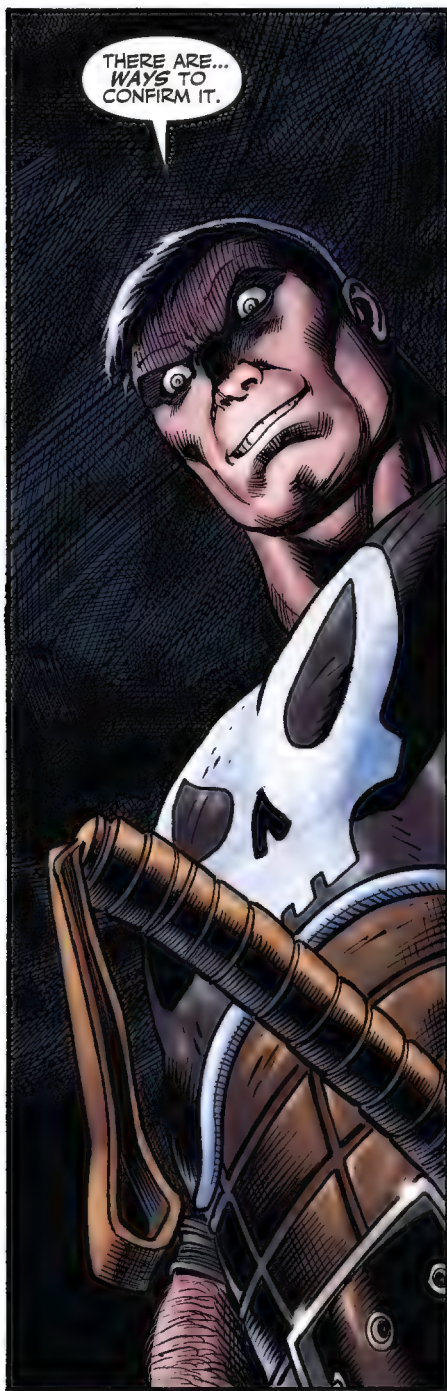
BUT IF IT WERE TRUE...

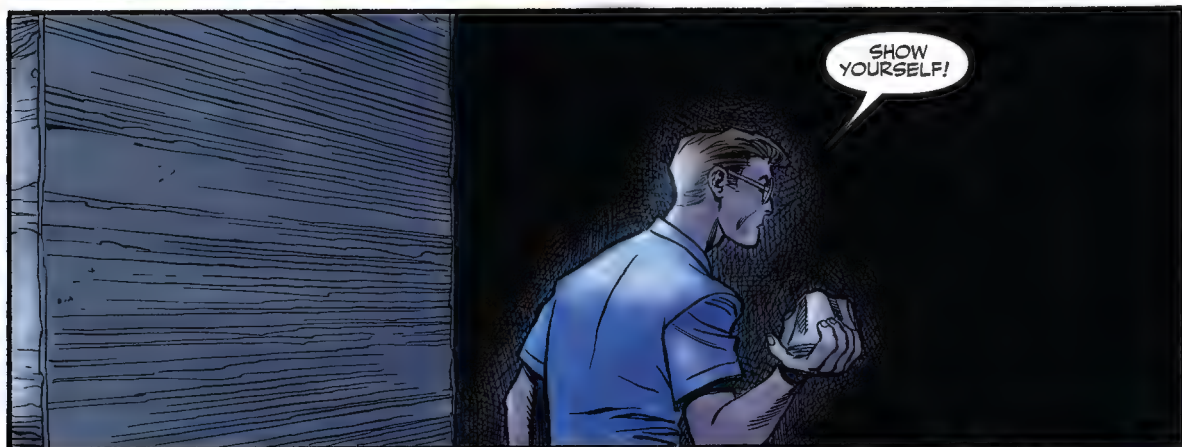
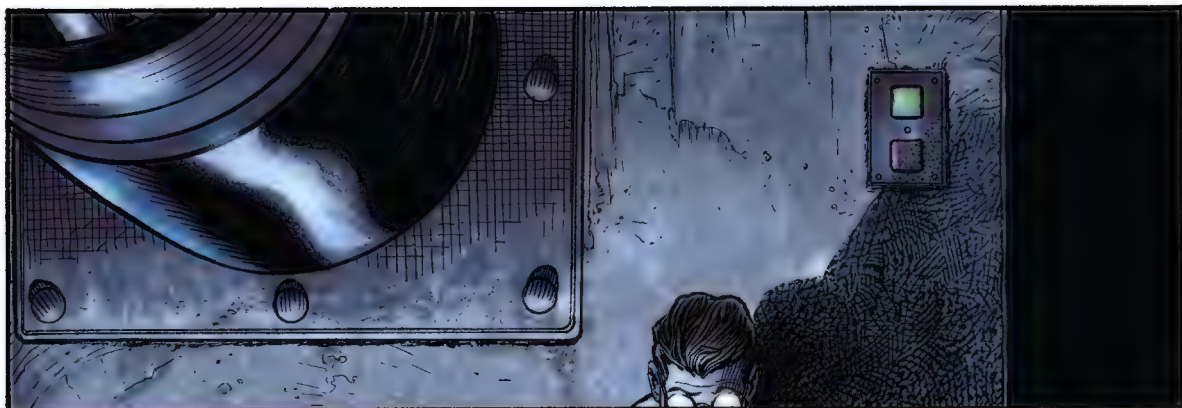
THAT THE HULK IS GONE FOR GOOD...

...THAT TAKES A MAJOR PLAYER OFF THE FIELD.



THAT SORT OF INFORMATION COULD BE VERY USEFUL.







RICK?!

HIYA,
DOC.



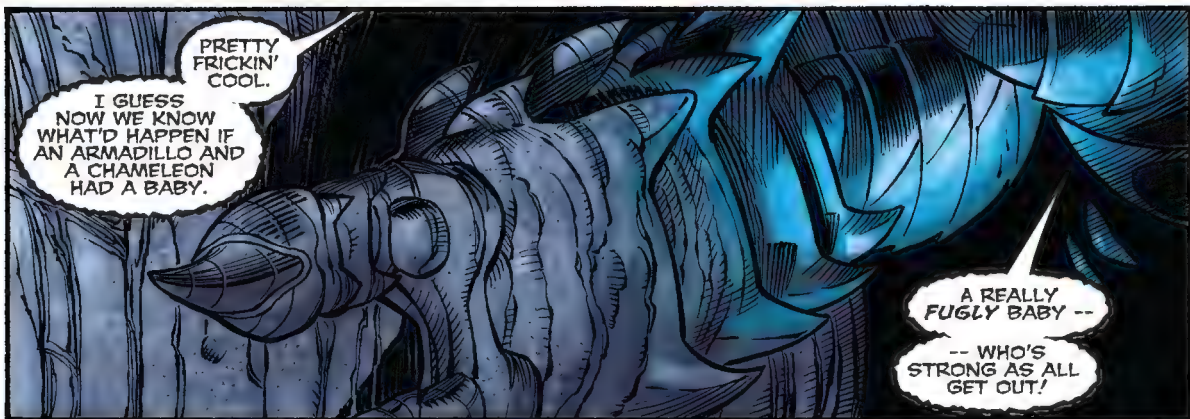
HOW--HOW DID YOU DO THAT?
ADAPT TO THE ENVIRONMENT
LIKE THAT?

ALWAYS
THE SCIENTIST,
HUH, BRUCE?

I'M
NOT SURE,
REALLY.

SOMETHING ELSE
M.O.D.O.K. DID TO ME.
OR I COULD ALWAYS DO
ONCE I BECAME...A-BOMB.

AND I
JUST DIDN'T
KNOW HOW.



PRETTY
FRICKIN'
COOL.

I GUESS
NOW WE KNOW
WHAT'D HAPPEN IF
AN ARMADILLO AND
A CHAMELEON
HAD A BABY.

A REALLY
FUGLY BABY --

-- WHO'S
STRONG AS ALL
GET OUT!



I'M STILL
AMAZED THAT YOU'VE
TAKEN CONTROL
OF A-BOMB'S
PERSONALITY.

YOU NO
LONGER REFER
TO YOURSELF
IN THE THIRD
PERSON.

LIKE
I USED
TO...

"HULK AM
STRONGEST
THERE IS..."



NOBODY'S
MORE SURPRISED
THAN ME. MAYBE MY
BRAIN JUST NEEDED
TIME TO CATCH UP
OR SOMETHING.

WHY'D YOU
CHOOSE THIS
PLACE TO LAY LOW?
YOU USED TO HAVE
ME LOCK **THE HULK**
INSIDE THAT
VAULT.

I'D CRAP
MY PANTS WITH
HIM POUNDING ON
THE DOOR TO
GET OUT.



WHY
DID YOU
COME HERE,
RICK?

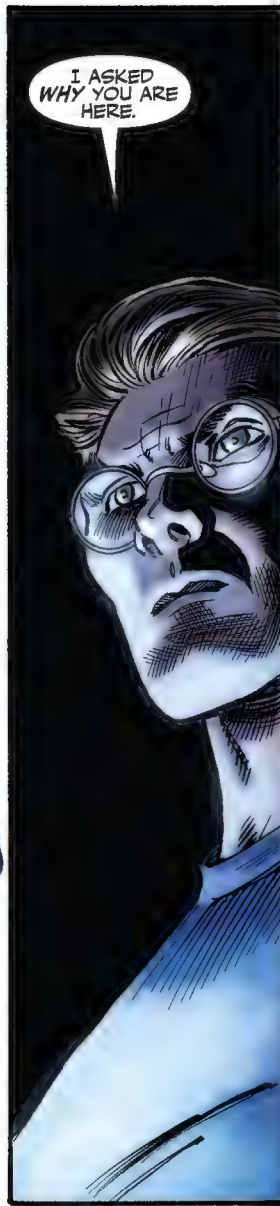
WE'VE GOT
SOME KIND OF
CONNECTION, BRUCE.
SOMETHING I CAN'T
EXPLAIN.

MAYBE
BECAUSE I'VE
GOT SOME OF
YOUR GAMMA
RADIATION
IN ME--

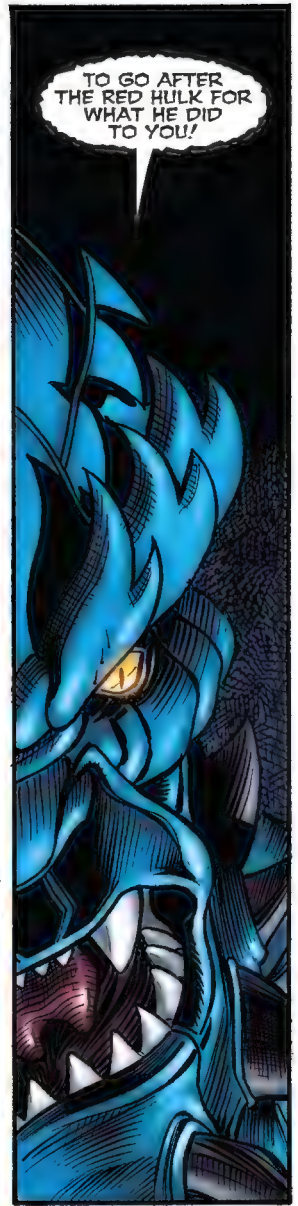
--I JUST
GET A FEELING
WHEN I WANT
TO FIND YOU--
I CAN.

JUST LIKE
YOU CAN WITH
THE RED HULK,
RIGHT?

I DIDN'T
ASK YOU *HOW*
YOU GOT
HERE.



I ASKED
WHY YOU ARE
HERE.



TO GO AFTER
THE RED HULK FOR
WHAT HE DID
TO YOU!

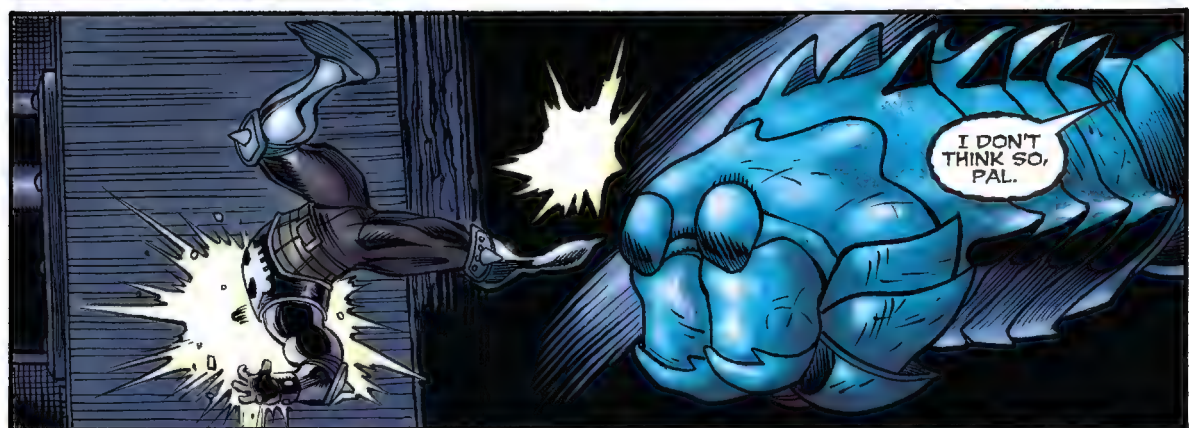


TO WHAT
END?

TO AVENGE
THE HULK'S DEATH
OR SOMETHING?

YES! THAT
@#%\$ DESERVES
A SERIOUS ASS-
KICKING!

RICK...
I SHOULD BE
THANKING
HIM...





YOU
WILL SPEAK
ONLY WHEN
SPOKEN
TO.

I AM
ARES --
**GOD OF
WAR!**



AND YOU ARE
NOTHING.



YOU'RE
INSANE.
THE HULK
IS GONE.

THEN YOU
ARE A DEAD
MAN.





THINK YOU'RE
A TOUGH GUY --
PUSHING AROUND GUYS
WHO CAN'T DEFEND
THEMSELVES,
HUH?



YOU'RE
MORE LIKE
THE GOD OF
WHATEVER.



NO ONE.
NOT MAN.
NOR BEAST.

INSULTS
ME AND
LIVES.



THAT WILL
BE THE LAST
LESSON YOU
LEARN IN THIS
WORLD.



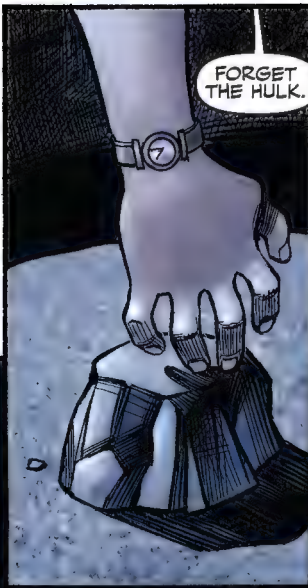
NOW,
BANNER --



BRING OUT
THE HULK!

I CAN'T!
I TOLD YOU
THE HULK IS
GONE!

THEN
YOUR FRIEND--
THIS CREATURE'S
DEATH
WILL BE YOUR
OWN FAULT!





I TOLD YOU,
THE HULK IS
GONE...



YOU JUST
GONNA LEAVE HIM
IN THERE?

HE'S LIKE
AN AVENGER OR
SOMETHING.

THEN HE'LL
EITHER BREAK
DOWN THE
DOOR--WHICH
I DOUBT--

--OR HE CAN
LET HIMSELF OUT
WHEN THE TIMER
OPENS THE DOOR
IN THE MORNING.

**THOOM
THOOM**



EITHER
WAY...

...WE WILL BE
LONG GONE
BY THEN.

**THOOM
THOOM
THOOM**



YOU WANNA
GET SOMETHING
TO EAT?

YOU GOTTA
BE STARVED,
RIGHT?

I'M
ALWAYS HUNGRY
LATELY...

**THOOM
THOOM
THOOM
THOOM
THOOM
THOOM**

THE NEXT MORNING.

I USUALLY DON'T IMBIBE THIS EARLY, BUT THIS IS CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION.

DRINK, GOD OF WAR? SORRY, I DON'T HAVE ANY MEAD ON STOCK.

I WILL HUNT BANNER DOWN.

WHY BOTHER?

YOU'VE ALREADY WON.

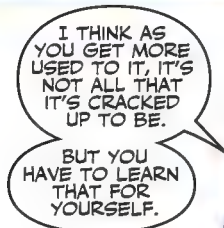
DO NOT MOCK ME.

MY FRIEND, KNOWLEDGE IS THE ONLY TRUE POWER. YOU KNOW NOW, FOR CERTAIN...

...THAT THE HULK IS NO MORE.

AND THAT MAKES YOU...

THE VICTOR.





ROUND ★ TWO



EYEWITNESS



ISSUE 14 COVER ★ IAN CHURCHILL, MARK FARMER & JASON KEITH

I AM THE HULK
NOW.

A NAME I SWORE
I'D NEVER HAVE.

LITTLE
LATE FOR A
SHAVE AND
HAIRCUT, ISN'T
IT, BOYS?

IS THAT
LEONARD SAMSON?
HOW'S HE FIGURE
INTO ALL THIS?

IF IT'S NOT
SAMSON, IT'S
SOME GUY WITH
A TERRIBLE
DYE JOB.

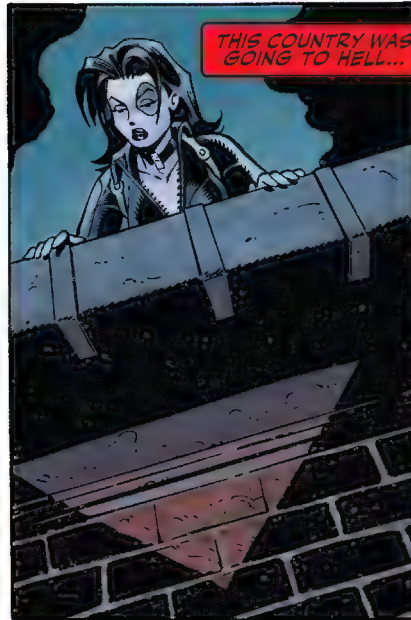
AWFUL LOT OF
FINGER POINTING.
SOMEBODY'S
NOT HAPPY WITH
SOMEBODY...

THIS...POWER --
UNIMAGINABLE.

HOW COULD
BANNER HAVE
DENIED IT?
HE DIDN'T
DESERVE IT.

I DESERVED IT.
I CAN SEE
THAT NOW.

AND I WON'T
LET ANYONE
TAKE IT AWAY.



I MADE A DEAL WITH...
PEOPLE WHO
BELONG IN PRISON.

chapter one:
eyewitness

I PUT MY OWN LIFE AT
RISK ONE MORE TIME.

BUT WITHOUT RISK
THERE'S NO REWARD.

SOMETHING...

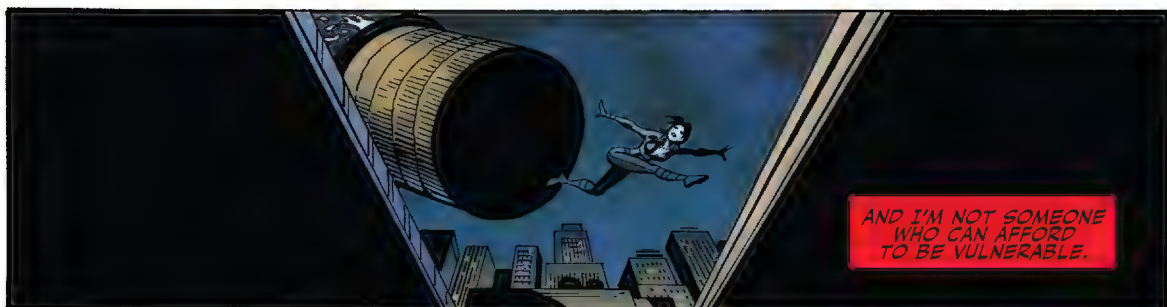
...HAD TO BE...

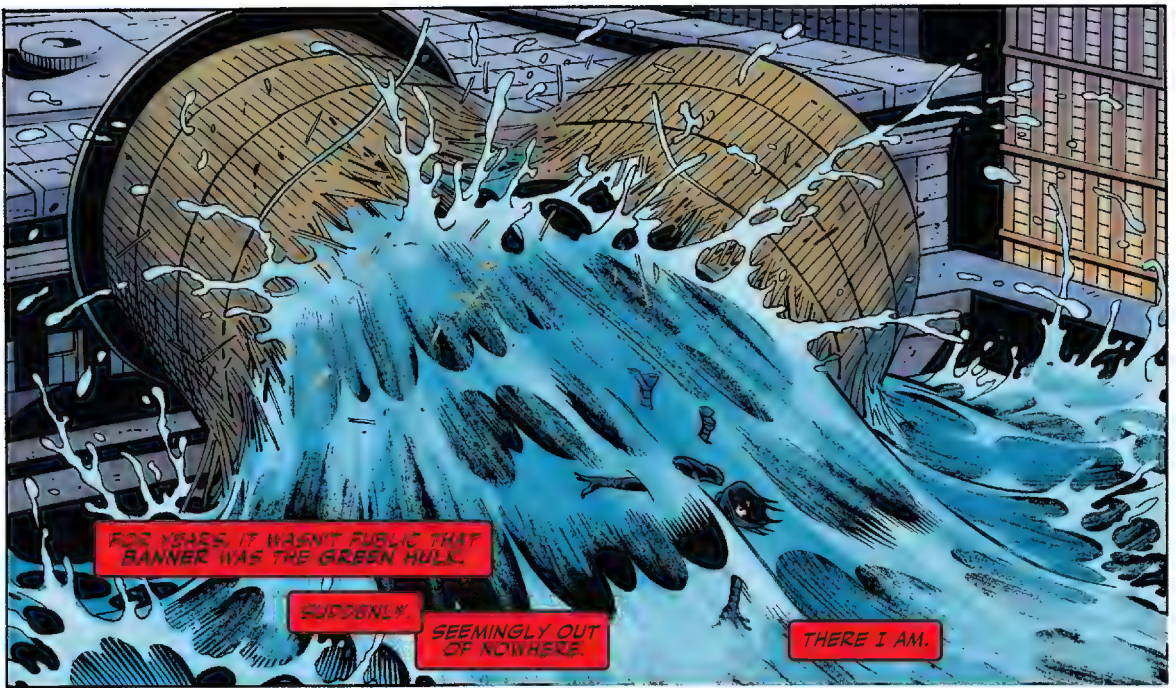
...DONE.

WRONG
PLACE.

WRONG
TIME.

BUT, IF THERE'S ONE THING
I'VE LEARNED THROUGH
EXPERIENCE, AS SOON AS YOU
THINK YOU'RE INVULNERABLE --



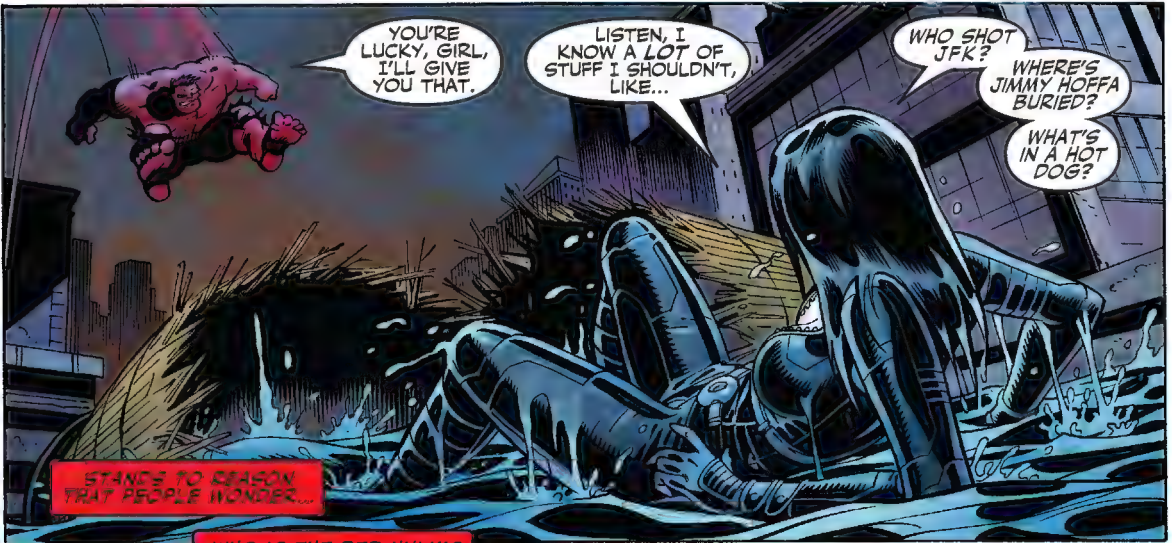


FOR YEARS, IT WASN'T PUBLIC THAT
BANNER WAS THE GREEN HULK.

SUDDENLY,

SEEMINGLY OUT
OF NOWHERE.

THERE I AM.



YOU'RE
LUCKY, GIRL,
I'LL GIVE
YOU THAT.

LISTEN, I
KNOW A LOT OF
STUFF I SHOULDN'T,
LIKE...

WHO SHOT
JFK?

WHERE'S
JIMMY HOFFA
BURIED?

WHAT'S
IN A HOT
DOG?

STANDS TO REASON
THAT PEOPLE WONDER...

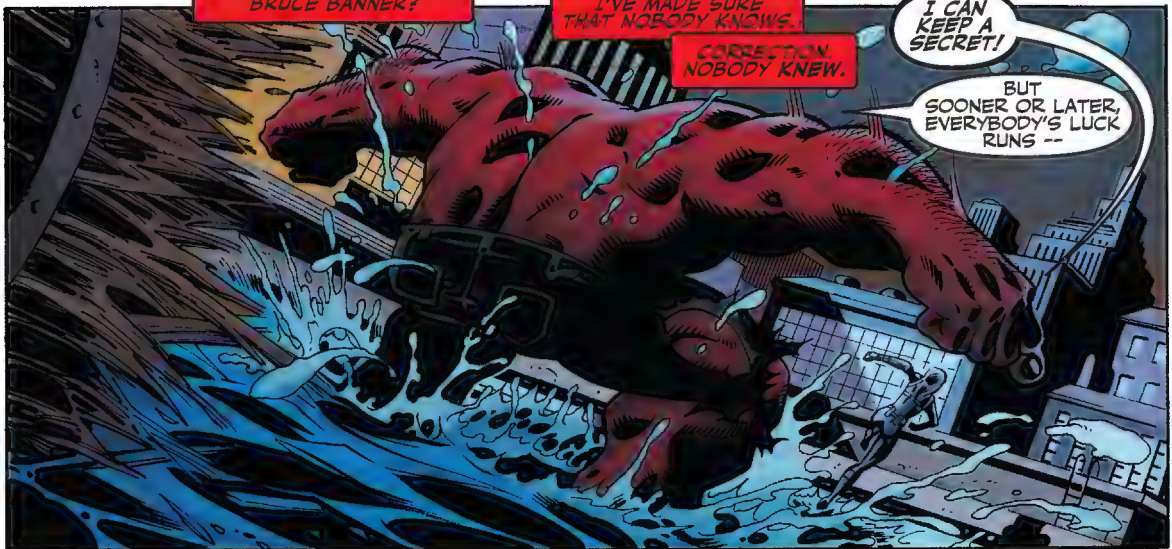
WHO IS THE RED HULK'S
BRUCE BANNER?

I'VE MADE SURE
THAT NOBODY KNOWS.

CORRECTION,
NOBODY KNEW.

I CAN
KEEP A
SECRET!

BUT
SOONER OR LATER,
EVERYBODY'S LUCK
RUNS --





NOW I UNDERSTAND.

BANNER WAS ASHAMED OF BEING THE HULK. IT'S WHY HE FOUGHT IT.

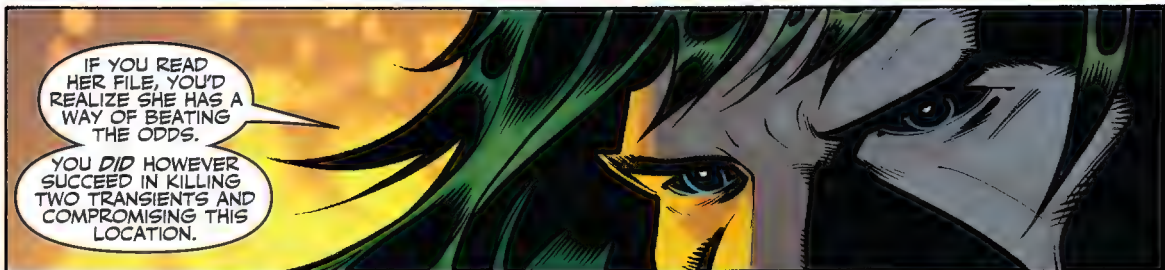
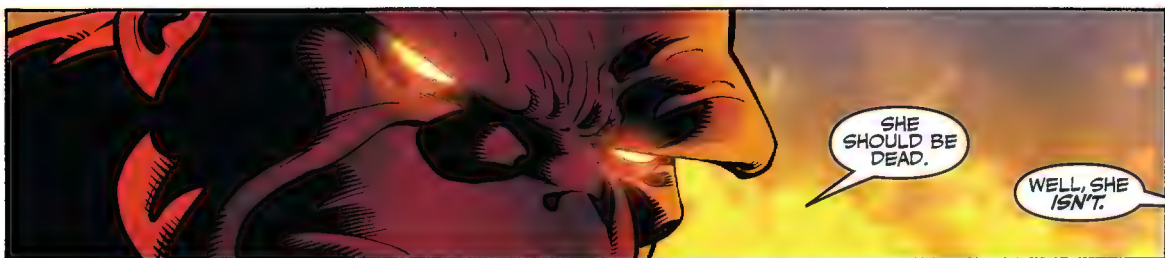
HE USED THE ONLY THING HE HAD THAT WAS WORTH A DAMN TO TRY AND CONTROL THE TRANSFORMATIONS.

HIS BRAIN.

SO SOMETIMES HIS HULK WAS SMART. SOMETIMES DUMBER THAN A BAG OF HAMMERS.

BUT WHEN YOU LOOK AT SOMEONE LIKE JEN WALTERS. SHE LOVED BEING SHE-HULK. SO, EVERYTHING UPSTAIRS TURNED LIKE CLOCKWORK.

THAT'S HOW IT IS WITH ME. I AM THIS HULK BECAUSE I WANT TO BE.





IT'S NOT
HOW I WANT IT
HANDLED.

HERE ARE
THE FILES FOR
THE TEAM YOU WILL
ENLIST IN YOUR
SEARCH.

SAMSON
IS RIGHT
ABOUT ONE
THING.

YOU'VE GOT
LESS THAN
TWENTY-FOUR
HOURS.

AFTER I'VE PAID
MY DEBT...



WHO THE
HELL ARE YOU
TO GIVE ME
ORDERS?

YOU KNOW
EXACTLY
WHO I AM.

AND THAT
FINISHES THIS
DISCUSSION.

AND WHEN ALL IS
SAID AND DONE...



WHAT
IF ONE OF
THEM SAYS
NO.

THEY
WON'T.

YOU'RE
GOING TO MAKE
THEM AN OFFER
THEY CAN'T
REFUSE.

I'M GOING TO
KILL EVERY SINGLE
LAST ONE OF THESE
S.O.B.S.



FIRST NAME ON THE LIST
IS DEADPOOL. "THE MERC
WITH A MOUTH."

I DON'T TRUST MEN WHOSE
LOYALTY CAN BE BOUGHT.

I'M ALREADY STARTING TO WONDER WHO PUT THIS LIST TOGETHER AND WHY.

HEY.
HOW DO
YOU GET TO
CARNEGIE
HALL?

PRACTICE!

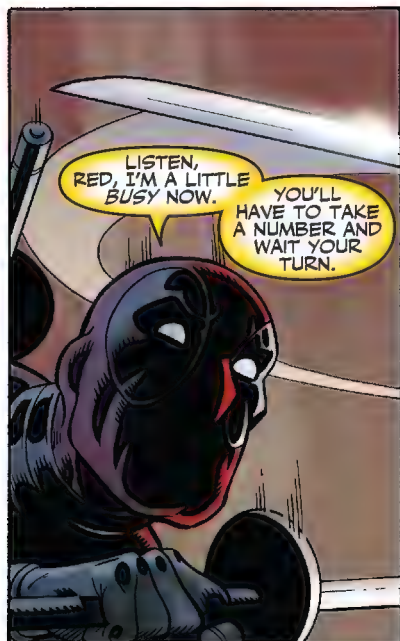
HA!
I NEVER GET
TIRED OF THAT
ONE.



DEADPOOL!



THAT'S
MY NAME.
DON'T WEAR
IT OUT.



LISTEN,
RED, I'M A LITTLE
BUSY NOW.

YOU'LL
HAVE TO TAKE
A NUMBER AND
WAIT YOUR
TURN.

PEOPLE IN THIS COUNTRY WERE SO BUSY
LOOKING AT THEIR RIGHT HAND, THEY DIDN'T
SEE WHAT WAS GOING ON WITH THEIR LEFT.

S.H.I.E.L.D. -- THE SUPPOSED
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE
AGENCY -- COLLAPSED
RIGHT UNDER ITSELF.

LEAVING A.I.M. THERE
TO PICK UP THE PIECES.
SOME REAL ESTATE
LIKE SAM'S BARBERSHOP
IN LOWER MANHATTAN.
THE GAMMA BASE
IN DEATH VALLEY.

THE SPECS ON THE
LIFE-MODEL-DECOY
PROGRAM.
ACCESS CODES
TO THE HELICARRIER.

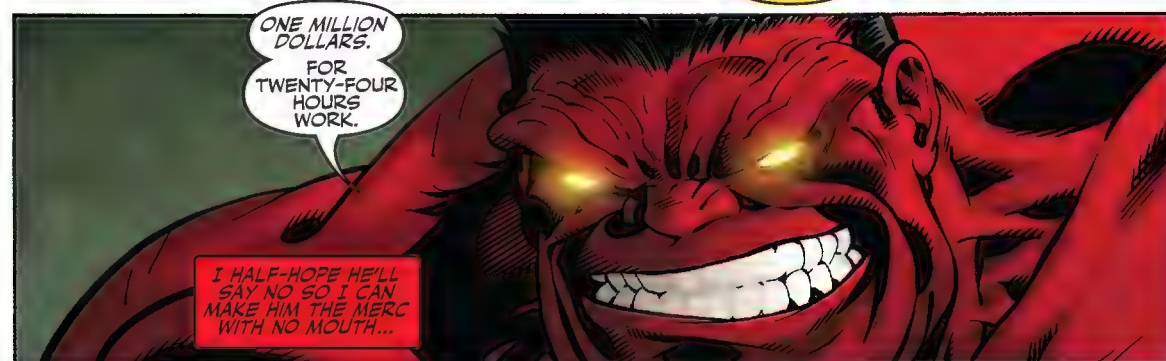
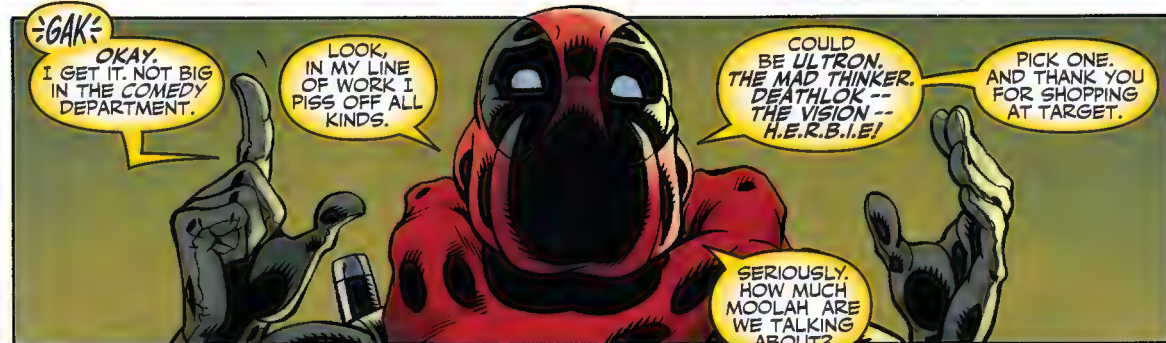
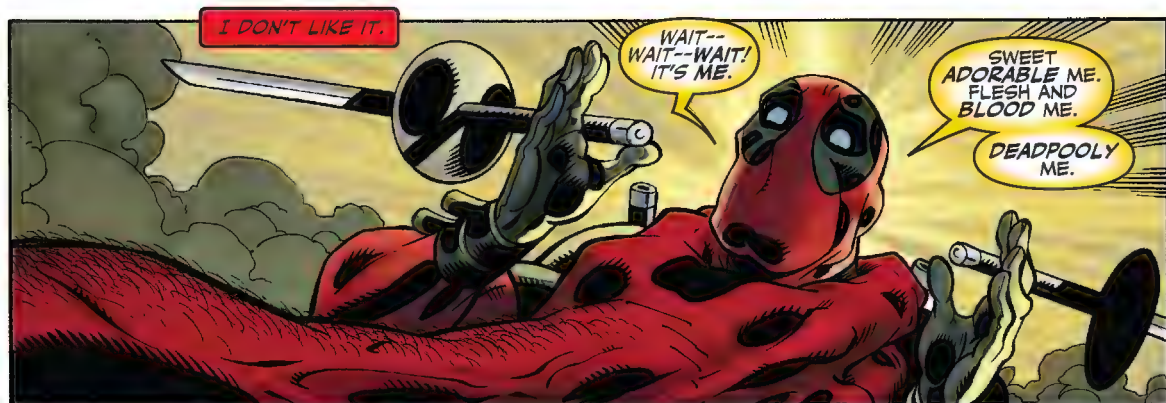
DETAILED PERSONNEL
FILES ON NEARLY
EVERYONE, AND I
MEAN, EVERYONE.

I
DON'T
WAIT MY
TURN.

YEP...
...I
CAN SEE
THAT.

SO, WHEN I SHOW UP
AT THE FIRST CONTACT
TONIGHT AND THERE'S
PROTOTYPE S.H.I.E.L.D.
L.M.D.S LITTERING
THE PLACE...





NEXT UP IS
THE PUNISHER.

FRANK CASTLE LOST
HIS FAMILY AND TAKES
IT OUT ON THE REST
OF THE WORLD.

I CAN
RESPECT THAT.

STILL, I WENT
TOE-TO-TOE
WITH THOR.

WHY AM I BEING TEAMED WITH A
MAN WHO NEEDS A REMINGTON
PUMP ACTION SHOTGUN TO TAKE
DOWN RUSSIAN MOBSTERS?

I HATE
THE RUSSIANS.

УБЕЙТЕ
SWINE!

THEY'VE GOT NO
RESPECT FOR HUMAN LIFE.



PLEASE.
I'LL GIVE YOU
ANYTHING YOU
WANT. MONEY.
DRUGS.
WOMEN.

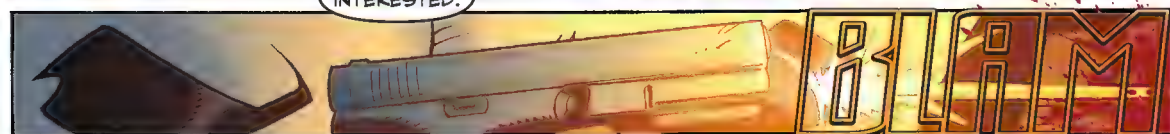
FRANK'S SMART ENOUGH TO
SEE THE KNIFE SO I DON'T
HAVE TO SAY ANYTHING.

AND IF HE ISN'T, I'LL
JUST MOVE ONTO THE
NEXT NAME ON THE LIST.



WE COULD
MAKE GOOD
DEAL. I COULD
EVEN CUT YOU IN
FOR A PIECE.
WHAT DO YOU
SAY?

NOT
INTERESTED.



BLAM



I
LIKE YOUR
STYLE.

NO POINT IN B.S.-ING HIM.
THE MAN'S BEEN AT WAR
FOR MOST OF HIS ADULT LIFE.

I CAN RESPECT
THAT TOO.



A HULK OF
A DIFFERENT
COLOR.



WORD
IS YOU'RE
TOUGH.



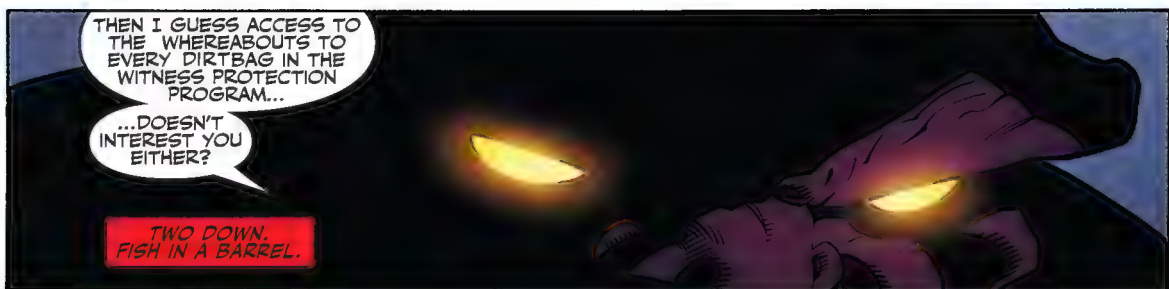
GUESS
SO.



ARE YOU
DONE?

BECAUSE
THERE'S SOME
BUSINESS I'D
LIKE TO DISCUSS
WITH YOU.

LIKE I TOLD
THAT GUY. NOT
INTERESTED.



THEN I GUESS ACCESS TO
THE WHEREABOUTS TO
EVERY DIRTBAG IN THE
WITNESS PROTECTION
PROGRAM...

...DOESN'T
INTEREST YOU
EITHER?

TWO DOWN.
FISH IN A BARREL.



HIYA, FRANKIE.

SHUT UP OR I'LL SHOOT YOU IN THE HEAD.

JUST TO GO OVER IT AGAIN.

WE'RE LOOKING FOR THE WOMAN CALLED "DOMINO."

IT'S A STANDARD SNATCH AND GRAB.

YOU FIND HER? HOLD HER UNTIL I GET THERE.

I WANT HER ALIVE.

THUNDRA. YOU GOT US THE DYNAMO.

WHERE'S ELEKTRA?

CRIMSON DYNAMO -- RUSSIA'S ANSWER TO IRON MAN -- JUST GOT OFF THE BOAT AND NEEDS POLITICAL ASYLUM.

THUNDRA AND I HAVE WORKED OUT A SIDE DEAL THAT'S NOBODY'S BUSINESS BUT MY OWN.

SHE'LL BE HERE.

AND STOP ACTING LIKE I DON'T KNOW HOW TO DO MY JOB.

COMRADES.

BORIS.

WHY DO YOU CALL ME THIS?

HELLO? BORIS AND NATASHA? NO HAVE BULLWINKLE IN MOSCOW?

I ASK BECAUSE MY NAME IS BORIS!

I DON'T LIKE WORKING WITH RUSKIES.

BUT WE ARE SO ALIKE, YOU AND I.

HOW'S THAT?

WE ARE BOTH CAPITALISTS WHO LIKE TO KILL.

PEOPLE.

WE'VE GOT LESS THAN NINETEEN HOURS.

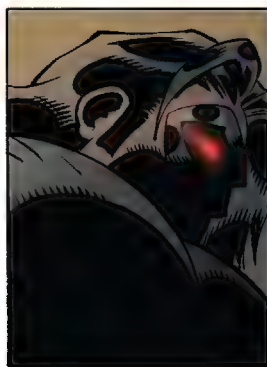
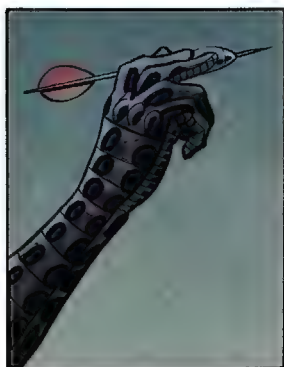
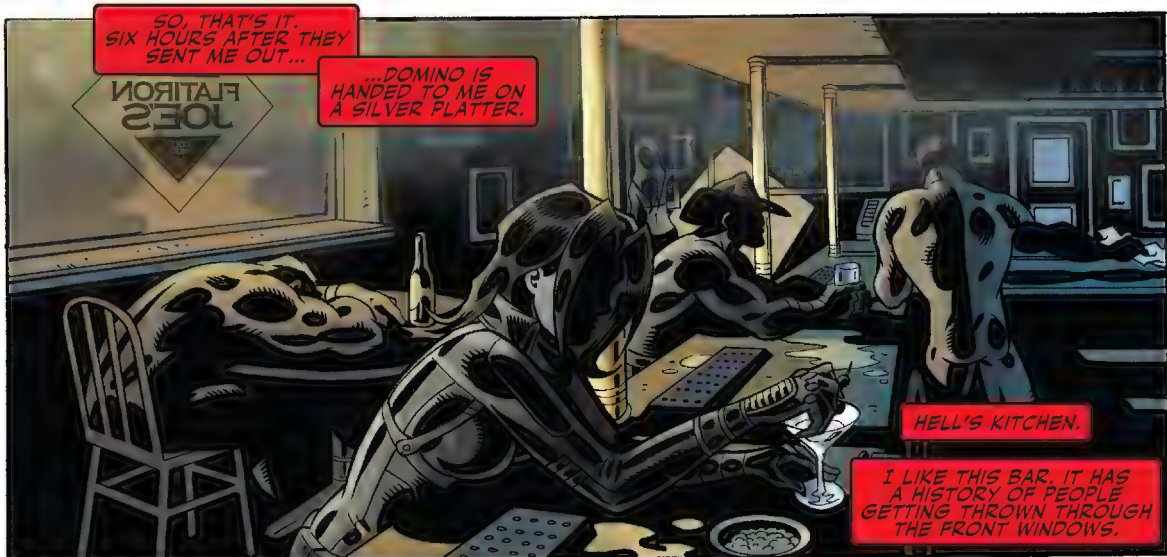
YOU WON'T NEED IT.



I'VE
ALREADY
FOUND
HER.

ELEKTRA.

THE ONLY ONE OF
THEM WORTH A DAMN.



THE PLACE IS LOUSY WITH MUTANTS.
THAT'S NOT MY REAL PROBLEM.

I
BROUGHT
FRIENDS
TOO.

WHO ORDERED
THE CHICKEN SALAD
SANDWICH?



WHAT I NEED TO KNOW
IS IF SHE TOLD ANY
OF HER FRIENDS HERE
WHAT SHE SAW...

CHEERS!

X-FORCE --
KILL WHOEVER
YOU WANT.

BUT
BIG RED
IS MINE.

...BECAUSE
ANYBODY
WHO KNOWS
HAS TO DIE...

SNIKT



ROUND ★ THREE



COLLISION



ISSUE 15 COVER ★ IAN CHURCHILL

HEROES AND VILLAINS. NOWADAYS,
YOU'VE GOT TO WONDER WHICH IS WHICH.

EVERYONE ON MY
TEAM. TAKE A MAN.
YOU'LL GET A MILLION
DOLLAR BONUS.
HAZARD PAY.

THERE'S A LOT
OF NICKELS,
BIG RED.

HAND OVER
DOMINO AND YOUR
PEOPLE LIVE.

NOT GONNA
HAPPEN.

WOLVERINE FOR EXAMPLE.

WALK AWAY,
LITTLE GIRL.

PUNISHER.

I'D
SOONER CUT
YOUR EYES
OUT.

X-23.

YOU ARE
UNDERSTANDING
THIS IS BUSINESS
NOT PERSONAL.

DYNAMO.

THEN YOU'RE
NOT GETTING PAID
ENOUGH FOR THE
BEATING YOU'RE
GOING TO TAKE.

ARCHANGEL.

JUST SPOKE TO
THE COOK. WE'VE
GOT ONE MORE
ESKIMO PIE IF
YOU WANT IT.

DEADPOOL.

WHAT
THE HELL ARE
YOU TALKING
ABOUT?

WARPATH.

WE CAME
FOR YOU.
WE'LL LEAVE
WITH YOU.

THUNDRA.

GOOD
LUCK WITH
THAT.

DOMINO.

ELEKTRA.



CODE
RED

Chapter two:

COLLISION

LET'S
TAKE THIS
OUTSIDE.

INSIDE OR
OUT. YOU'RE
GOING DOWN
AND DOMINO
IS MINE.

HIS TEAM.
X-FORCE.

A NETWORKS
OPERATION
THAT OPERATES
IN SECRET.

ONLY IN MY
WORLD THERE ARE
NO SECRETS...

...EXCEPT MINE.

EXCEPT "WHO IS THE
RED HULK?"



FIRST BLOOD, OR WHATEVER IT IS YOU CALL THAT YELLOW GOO.

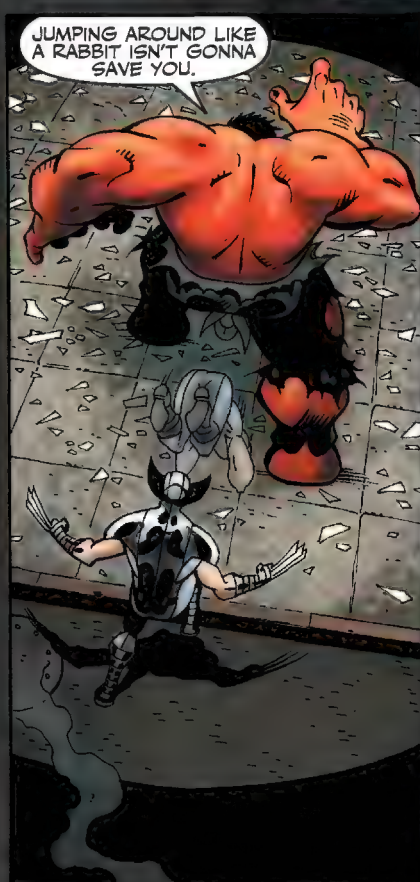
I'M ONLY INTERESTED IN LAST BLOOD.

SHORT ANSWER: IT'S ME.

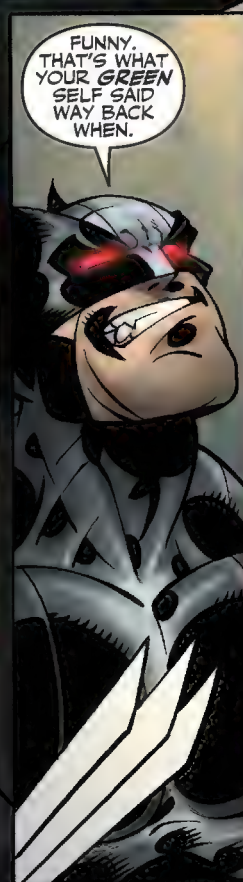
THE REST IS NOBODY ELSE'S BUSINESS.

UNTIL DOMINO MADE IT HERS.

NOW WE HAVE A SITUATION.



JUMPING AROUND LIKE A RABBIT ISN'T GONNA SAVE YOU.



FUNNY. THAT'S WHAT YOUR GREEN SELF SAID WAY BACK WHEN.



THEN YOU'LL HAVE TO LEARN THE HARD WAY.

THE GREEN HULK IS GONE. AND I'M MY OWN MONSTER.



SO, YOU'RE THE NEW GUY WHO SAYS HE'S "THE STRONGEST THERE IS..." --

-- BUT THERE AIN'T MUCH YOU CAN DO WITH YOUR HEAD CUT OFF.

SO, REAL QUICK. WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH DOM ANYWAY?

SHE HASN'T TOLD YOU?

DO I LOOK LIKE THE KIND OF GUY WHO ASKS QUESTIONS HE ALREADY KNOWS THE ANSWER TO?

IF HE COULD, I KNOW WOLVERINE WOULD KILL ME.

THAT'S WHERE THE LINE GETS BLURRED.

THIS MAN IS AN AVENGER.

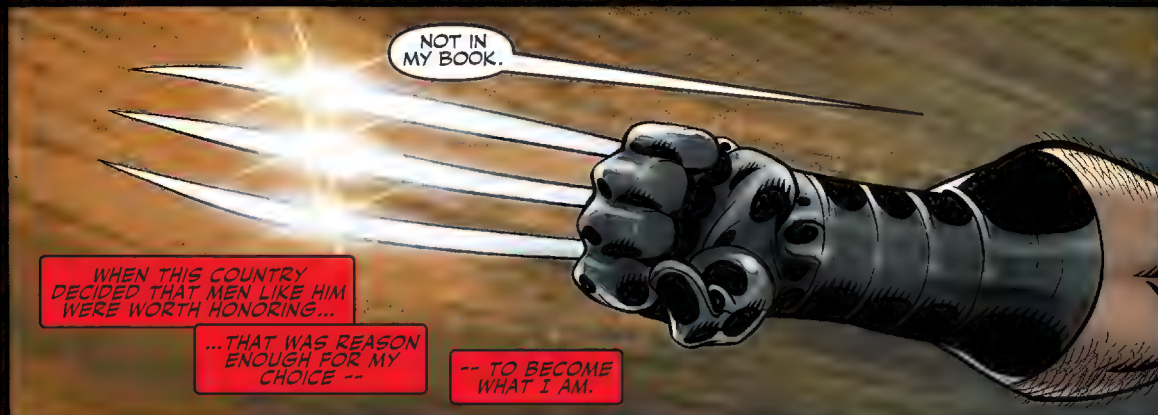
ONE OF "EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES."



NOPE.



YOU LOOK LIKE THE GUY WHO DIED WITHOUT KNOWING WHY.



NOT IN MY BOOK.

WHEN THIS COUNTRY DECIDED THAT MEN LIKE HIM WERE WORTH HONORING...

...THAT WAS REASON ENOUGH FOR MY CHOICE --

-- TO BECOME WHAT I AM.



NEVER
BET
AGAINST
ME.

GROARRRR



MY EYES WILL
HEAL. I DON'T
KNOW HOW
LONG THAT
WILL TAKE.

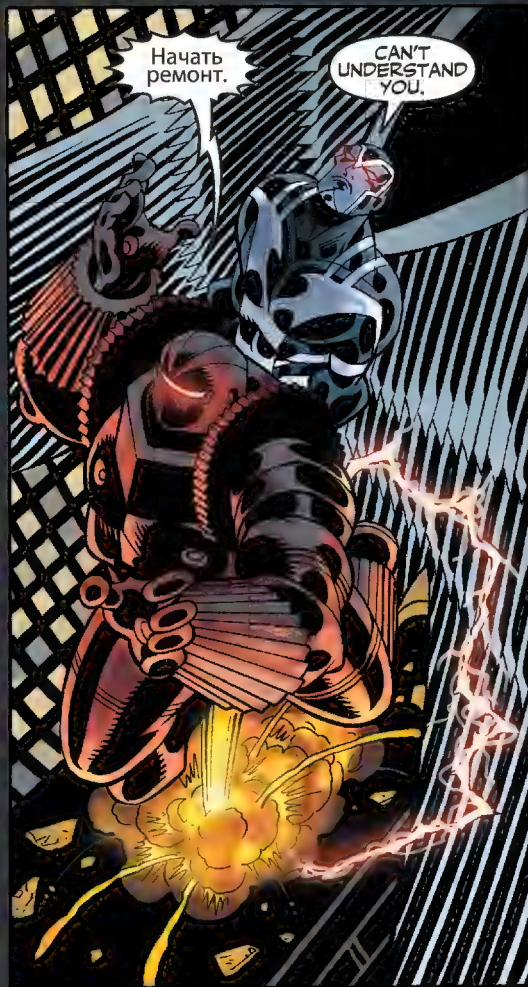
WORSE, IT
CHANGES THE
PLAYING FIELD.

I'M NOW DEPENDING
ON A GROUP OF
PEOPLE I WAS
FORCED TO HIRE.

MERCENARIES.
KILLERS.

IN THEIR OWN
MINDS...HEROES.





I HATE TO ADMIT...
MY CHOICE FORCED
ME TO THINK
ABOUT BANNER.

FOR ALL HIS CLAIMS
ABOUT BEING
MISUNDERSTOOD.

HOW EVERYONE WHO
HUNTED HIM WAS
IN THE WRONG.

BUT IF
YOU WANT TO
SURRENDER,
IT'S GOING TO
HAVE TO BE
IN ENGLISH.

Система сильно
повреждена.

UNLESS
YOU TELL ME
OTHERWISE, I'M
DROPPING YOU
IN THE MID-
ATLANTIC.

Катапультация
через 5,4,3 ...

ARE YOU...
COUNTING...?

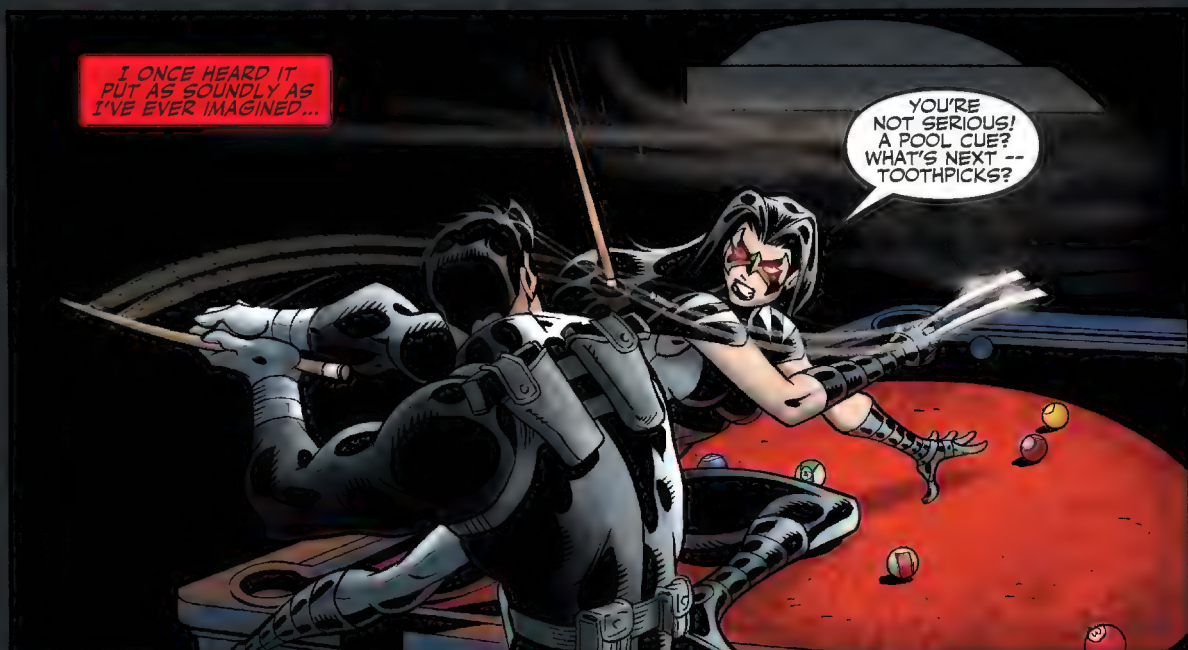
Самоуничтожение
рекомендовано.

THEN, I REMEMBER
WHAT HE DID.

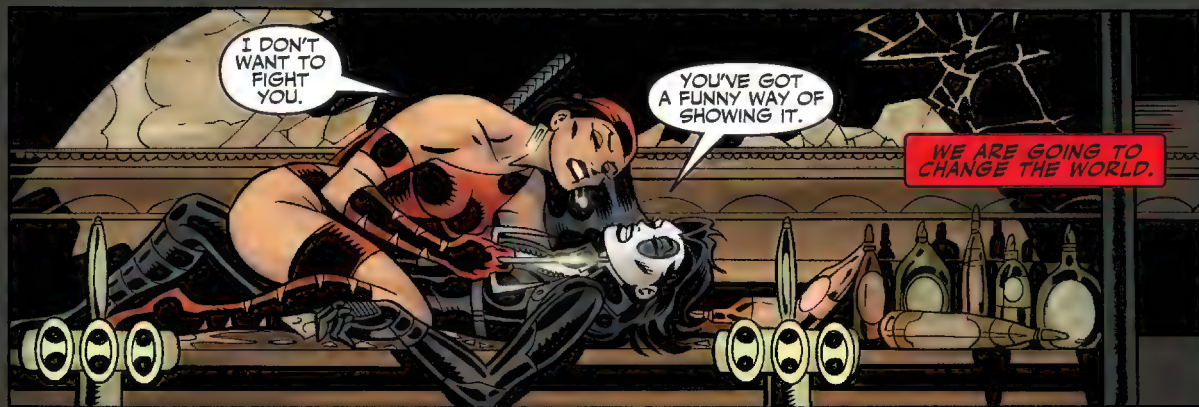
THE LIVES HE
DESTROYED, ALL THE
WHILE SHIELDING
HIMSELF FROM TAKING
RESPONSIBILITY.

MY ACTIONS BECAME
CRYSTAL CLEAR.









I DON'T WANT TO FIGHT YOU.

YOU'VE GOT A FUNNY WAY OF SHOWING IT.

WE ARE GOING TO CHANGE THE WORLD.



GET OFF.

NOT UNTIL YOU TELL ME WHY EVERYONE IS AFTER YOU.

YOU TELL ME YOU'RE ONE OF THE "EVERYONE."

THAT HULK. HE HIRED A TEAM TO FIND YOU.

AND YOU DIDN'T ASK WHY?



WHAT WOULD BE THE POINT OF ASKING A QUESTION ON A "NO QUESTIONS ASKED" MISSION?

BUT...HE WASN'T EXPECTING TO COME INTO CONFLICT WITH YOUR TEAM.

X-FORCE WASN'T PART OF THE PLAN.

I GOT THE JUMP ON HIM, SO WHAT?

I DON'T BELIEVE IN COINCIDENCE.

WHAT IF SOMEONE KNEW ABOUT US AND KNEW ABOUT ALL OF YOU?



WHAT IF THIS WAS ALL A SETUP?

ONE MISSTEP AND EVERYTHING WE'VE BEEN PLANNING FOR MONTHS...

...COULD UNRAVEL.

I WON'T LET MY LIFE
SPIRAL DOWN INTO CHAOS.

OKAY! I SEE YOUR
POINT! CHARGING TWENTY
PERCENT GRATUITY
FOR PARTIES OF SIX
OR MORE PEOPLE IS
CROSSING A LINE.



IF YOU'RE A FIRST-TIME CALLER, WE'LL
THROW IN THIS GEORGE WASHINGTON
COMMEMORATIVE CHERRY TREE
CHOPPING WEED WHACKER.



STOP.

AS SIMPLE A CONCEPT
AS IT IS, THERE ARE PEOPLE
WHO DON'T REALIZE THAT IN
CHAOS THERE IS NO ORDER.

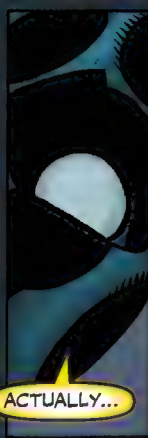




YOUGH.



THAT OUGHT
TO SHUT YOU
UP.



ACTUALLY...

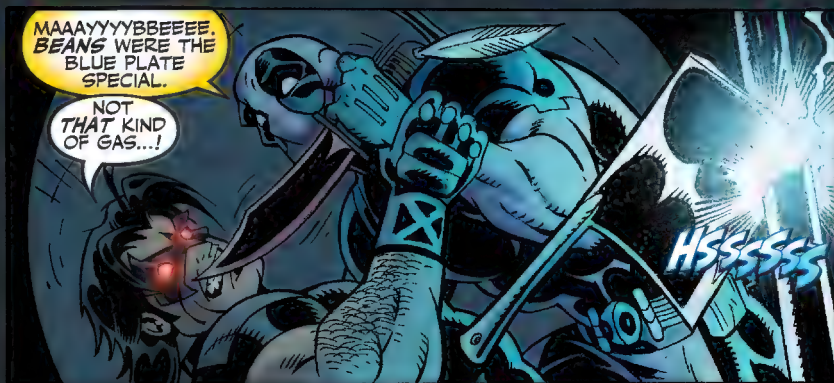


...THAT
WAS SO MUCH
FUN --

-- LET'S
SEE HOW YOU
LIKE IT.



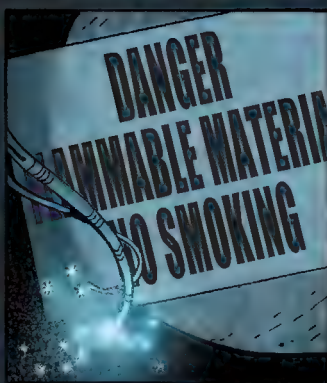
WAIT.
NNNNNNNNNN
DO...YOU SMELL
GAS?



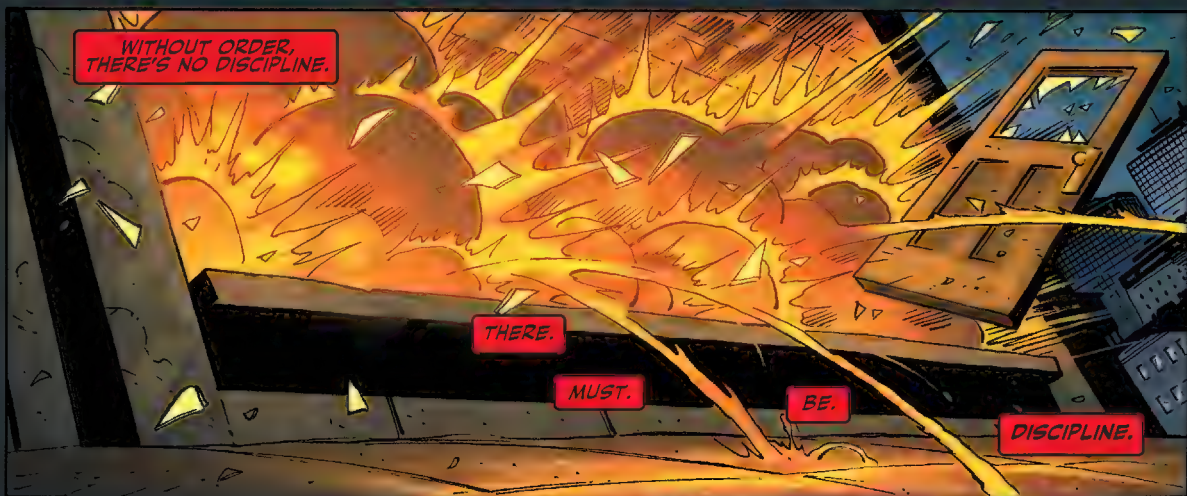
MAAAYYYBBEEEE.
BEANS WERE THE
BLUE PLATE
SPECIAL.

NOT
THAT KIND
OF GAS...!

HSSSSSS



DANGER
FLAMMABLE MATERIAL
NO SMOKING



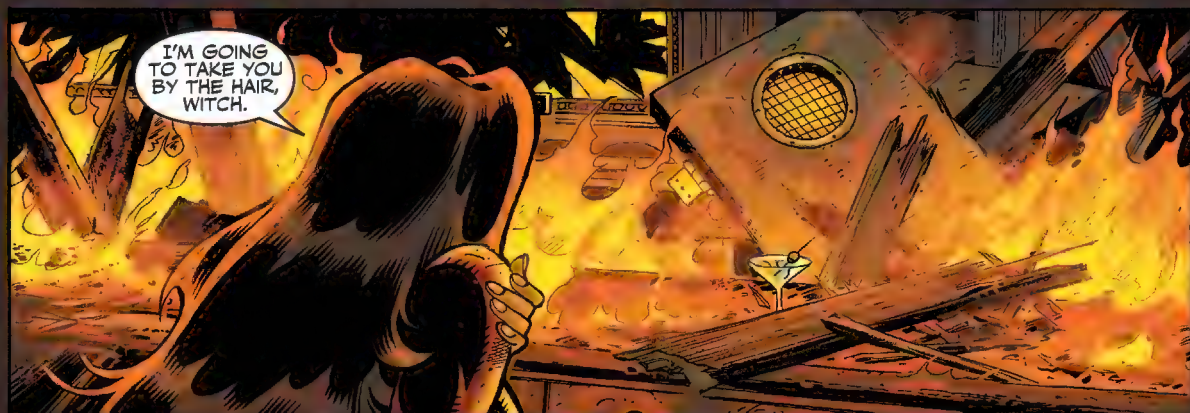
WITHOUT ORDER,
THERE'S NO DISCIPLINE.

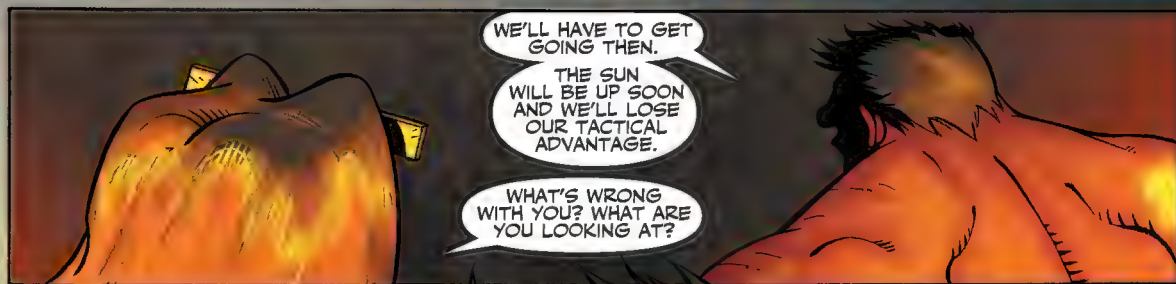
THERE.

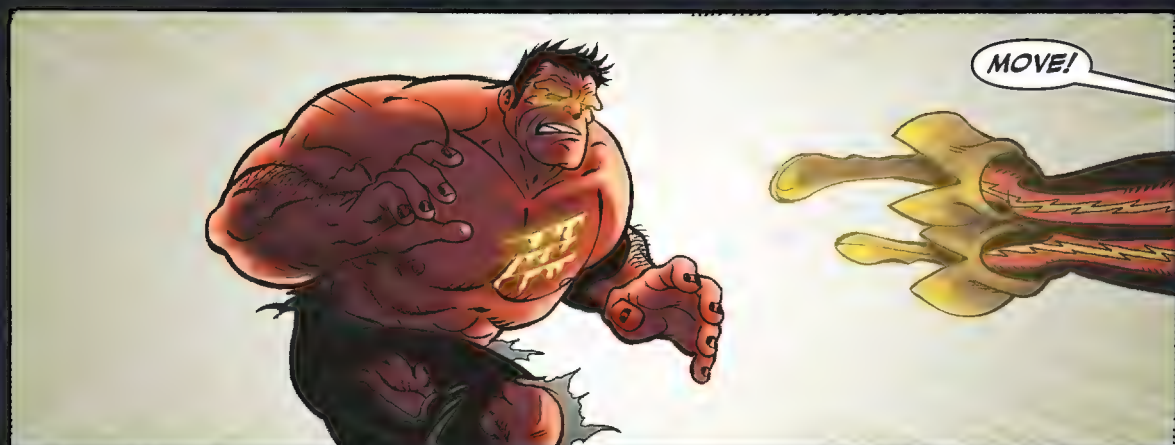
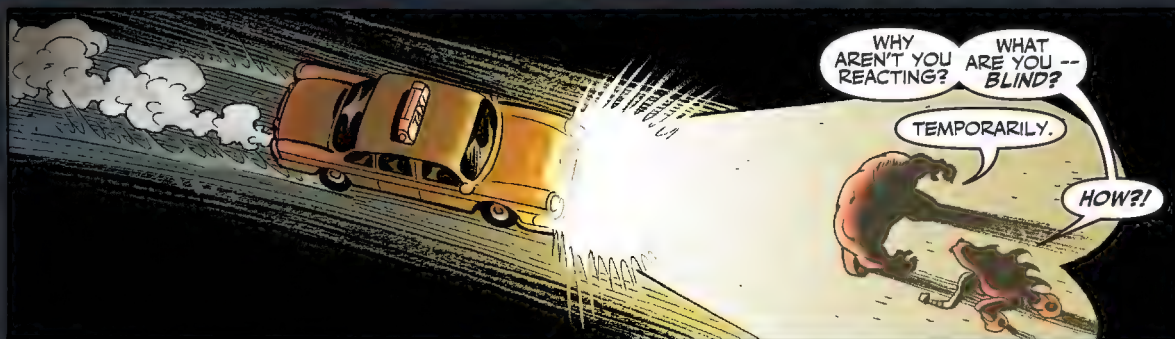
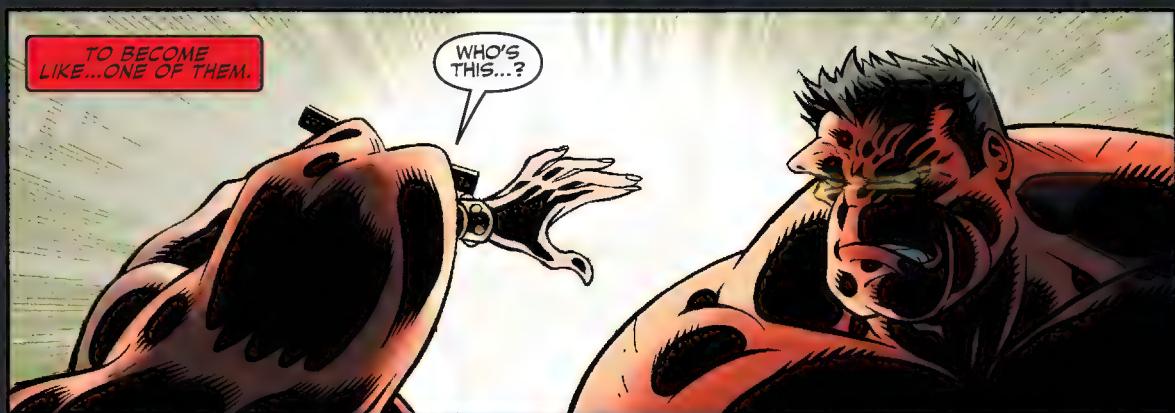
MUST.

BE.

DISCIPLINE.









WOLVERINE.

ROUND TWO, BUB.

TO BE THOUGHT OF AS A VILLAIN.

TO BE LIKE BANNER.

TO BECOME THE HULK IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE.



HOW DO YOU PLAN ON LOOKING FOR DOMINO WHEN YOU CAN'T EVEN SEE!



HE'S NOT.

TELL EVERYBODY TO GO HOME.

GAME'S OVER.



YOU DON'T GET TO MAKE THAT CALL.

RED:
IF YOU HAD EYEBALLS YOU'D KNOW THAT YOUR WHOLE TEAM'S FRIED.



YOU DON'T HAVE ANY OTHER OPS.
GUNNNH!

YOU OF ALL PEOPLE, LOGAN, OUGHT TO KNOW IT AIN'T OVER UNTIL THE FAT LADY SINGS.



AND I
HAVE BEEN
TRYING TO KEEP
MY GIRLISH
FIGURE.

ALL AT ONCE, THE PLAN
CHANGES AGAIN.

EVEN THOUGH I'M
VULNERABLE, I HAVE TO
TAKE BACK CONTROL.

IT'S TIME FOR ME
TO BE THE HERO.

ROUND ★ FOUR



ISSUE 16 COVER ★ IAN CHURCHILL

S H E

MY FATHER WAS A...
DIFFICULT MAN.

RED!
LET'S GO!

NO FALSE
MOVES,
WOLVERINE.
I DOUBT THAT
HEALING FACTOR
CAN GROW YOU
BACK A NEW
HEAD.

HE EXPECTED
GREATNESS, EVEN
FROM A CHILD.

WHAT
THE HELL
IS GOING
ON?

THERE'S
A LARGE RED
FEMALE VERSION
OF YOURSELF WITH
WHAT I THINK IS
DOMINO'S GUN TO
WOLVERINE'S HEAD.

"A FEMALE
VERSION OF
ME?" WHAT
THE @#\$% IS
THAT?

SHE'S LIKE
THE GREEN
SHE-HULK,
ONLY RED.

YOU
HONESTLY
DON'T KNOW
WHO THIS
IS?

DO I HAVE
TO REMIND YOU
THAT I'M BLIND,
THUNDRA?

HE
WOULD NOT
TOLERATE
WEAKNESS.

"WEAKNESS."
HE WOULD
SAY, "CAN'T
BE TAUGHT."
IT'S A FLAW OF
CHARACTER."

THIS
HOW THE
RED HULK
HANDLES
THINGS?

AT LEAST
BANNER
DID HIS OWN
DIRTY
WORK.

OFF
DOMINO AND
ELEKTRA.

RIGHT
AFTER I
KILLED THEM
BOTH.

WHERE'D
YOU GET THAT
GUN AND
SAI?

YOU'D
BETTER BE
LYING --



-- OR
WHEN THE SUN
COMES UP THIS
MORNING?

YOU'LL BE
DEAD.

HE ONCE FOUND A PACK
OF CIGARETTES I'D HIDDEN
BEHIND THE RADIATOR.

I LIED. SAID THEY
BELONGED TO
ANOTHER BOY.

HE WOULDN'T
HEAR OF IT.

THIS WAS HIS CHANCE
TO SET AN EXAMPLE.

CODE RED

Chapter 12
SWZ



HE BOUGHT A WHOLE NEW
CARTON OF CIGARETTES.

GOT A PAIL
OF WATER.

I'M
LEAVING
NOW.

I'M GOING
TO FIND DOMINO
AND PUT AN
END TO ALL
OF THIS.

I'LL KILL
ANYBODY WHO
TRIES TO
STOP ME.



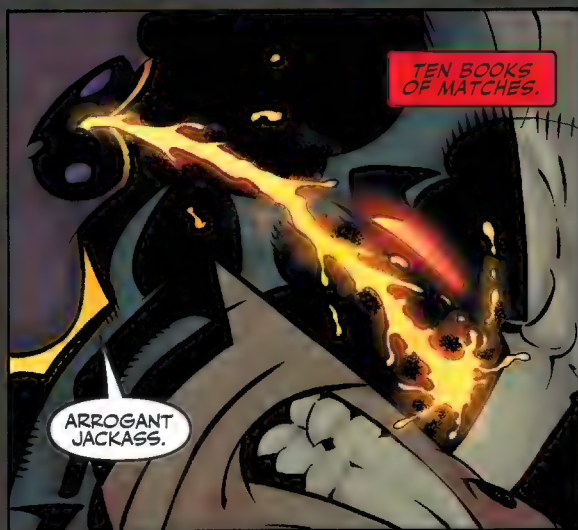
FOR A
GUY WHO HAS A
SUCH A BIG DOG
REPUTATION...
...BASICALLY
YOU'RE A CREEPY
LITTLE MAN
WITH A NAPOLEON
COMPLEX.



I DON'T SEE HOW
ANYBODY WOULD
CARE IF WE HAD
ONE MORE DEAD
MUTANT ON
OUR HANDS.



SHORTEST
CAREER
EVER.



TEN BOOKS
OF MATCHES.

ARROGANT
JACKASS.



HE LIT THE FIRST CIGARETTE, HANDED IT TO ME, TOSSED THE MATCH IN THE WATER PAIL.

I HAD NO IDEA WHAT WAS TO COME.

WHO GGNNE ARE YOU?
YOU SOUND LIKE JEN WALTERS AFTER A FEW SHOTS OF DON JULIO.




THAT'D BE IRONIC, WOULDN'T IT?

THAT I'D TURN OUT TO BE A SMARTER, STRONGER VERSION OF THE GREEN SHE-HULK...?



IT'S IRONIC BECAUSE... JEN WALTERS IS DEAD.



THAT'S IT.
I'M NOT
WAITIN' 'TIL THE
SUN COMES
UP!

I FINISHED THE CIGARETTE
IN FRONT OF HIM. HE DIDN'T
SAY ANYTHING UNTIL HE
HANDED ME ANOTHER ONE.

LIT IT AND TOLD ME
TO KEEP GOING.

I DON'T KNOW WHICH SIDE
THE RED GAL IS ON --

-- BUT I KNOW WHOSE
SIDE YOU'RE NOT
ON, LOGAN.

GARGHD

ONE SIDE!
ONE SIDE! HOT
STUFF COMING
THROUGH.

LOVE THE
OUTFIT.

IT'S SO
HARD TO FIND
THINGS IN PLUS
SIZES THAT
LOOKS GOOD
ON YOU BIG
GALS.

WHAT? YOU'RE
PROBABLY JUST
BIG BONED!

WELL, THERE'S
ONE GOOD
THING TO COME
OUT OF US
MEETING...

...AT
LEAST THE
RUMP ROAST
IS OUT.

I WAS DIZZY BY
THE THIRD ONE.

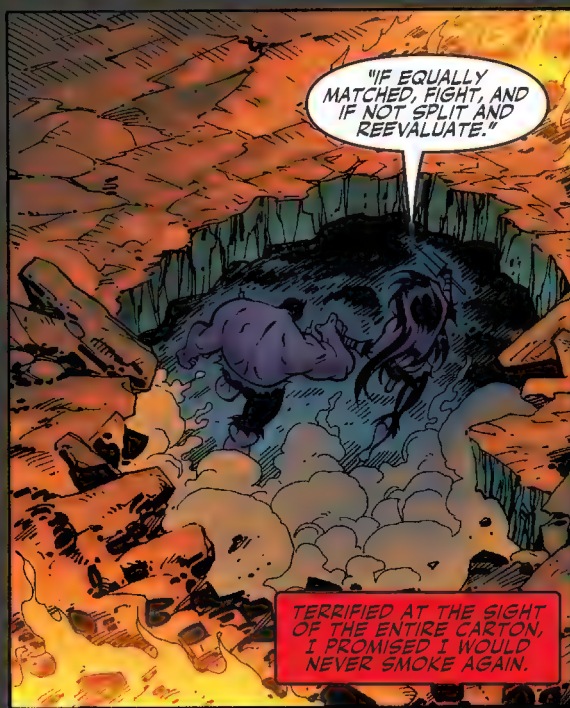
LOGAN!

GO FOR
COVER!

NAUSEOUS BY
THE FIFTH.

LAND,
ARCHANGEL.
OR I WILL
SNAP YOUR
NECK.

MY FATHER JUST
KEPT LIGHTING THEM.





STOP. CHASING THE HULKS IS A WASTE OF YOUR TIME.

LISTEN, BUB. I'M GOING. AND IT CAN BE AROUND YOU OR THROUGH YOU.

YOU NEED TO FIND DOMINO AND ELEKTRA.



THIS BATTLE IS OVER. DON'T LET YOUR ANIMALISTIC SIDE MAKE THIS DECISION.



GO. NOBODY'S GOING TO FOLLOW YOU.



JUST LIKE THAT.

JUST LIKE THAT, PUNISHER. THIS FIASCO DESTROYED A CITY BLOCK.

EITHER THE ARMY OR THE AVENGERS ARE GOING TO COME RAINING DOWN ON ALL OF YOU AND THAT CAN'T BE A GOOD THING.

ARCHANGEL, YOU'VE GOT X-23 AND WARPATH WOUNDED INSIDE.

THE REST OF YOU, COME WITH ME.



WE DON'T WORK FOR YOU.

THE RED HULK HAD NO INTENTION OF MAKING GOOD ON YOUR DEALS.



ME, ON THE OTHER HAND...



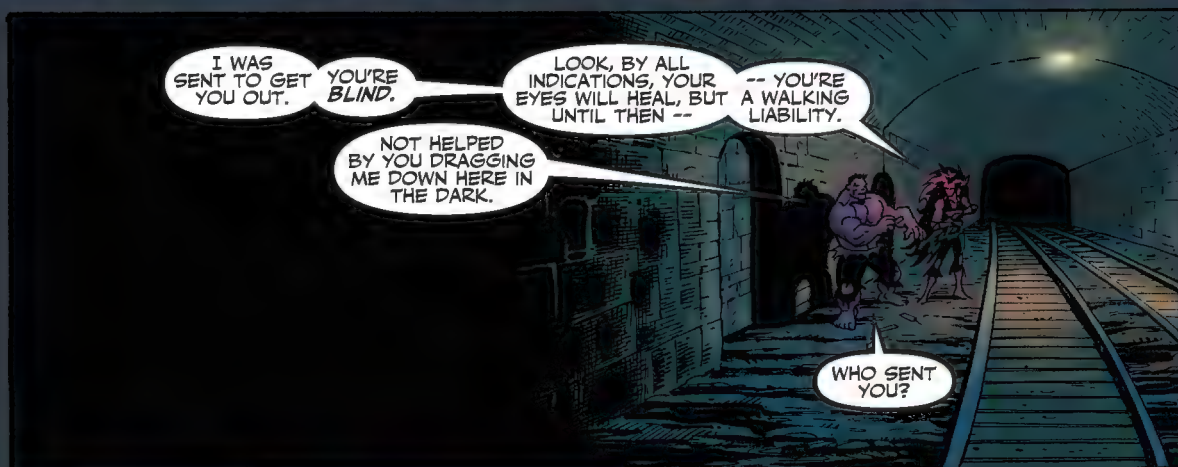
MY FATHER MADE IT CLEAR THAT IT WASN'T ABOUT THE SMOKING. HE WANTED TO TEACH ME THAT ANYTHING IN EXCESS WOULD MAKE ME WEAKER.

YOU KNOW SUN-TZU.

BUD FOX, ACTUALLY.

WHO THE HELL IS THAT?

WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?



I WAS SENT TO GET YOU OUT.

YOU'RE BLIND.

LOOK, BY ALL INDICATIONS, YOUR EYES WILL HEAL, BUT UNTIL THEN --

-- YOU'RE A WALKING LIABILITY.

NOT HELPED BY YOU DRAGGING ME DOWN HERE IN THE DARK.

WHO SENT YOU?



THE SAME PEOPLE WHO SENT YOU.

DO YOU THINK I JUST WOKE UP ONE DAY BIG, BUFF AND RED?

NOW, IF YOU DON'T HAVE ANY OTHER STUPID QUESTIONS --

-- WE NEED TO KEEP MOVING.



I DON'T LIKE IT WHEN I DON'T GET A DIRECT ANSWER.

I PUNCHED OUT A WATCHER. TOOK DOWN THOR.

TELL ME WHAT I WANT TO KNOW OR I'LL TEAR YOUR HEAD OFF.



I'D LIKE TO SEE YOU TRY.





THERE'S AN OLD FABLE ABOUT SIX BLIND MEN AND AN ELEPHANT.

NOBODY KNOWS ITS TRUE ORIGIN. JAIN. BUDDHIST. SUFI. HINDU.

THERE'S EVEN A 19TH CENTURY POEM --

I GET IT. IT'S OLD.

A KING ASKED SIX BLIND MEN TO EXAMINE AN ANIMAL THEY KNEW NOTHING ABOUT.
AN ELEPHANT.
THESE WEREN'T FOOLS. THEY WERE BRILLIANT MEN.
EACH MAN TOOK ONE PART OF THE BEAST.

WHEN THEY WERE DONE, THEY WERE SUMMONED BY THE KING TO EXPLAIN WHAT SORT OF THING IS AN ELEPHANT.

THE BLIND MAN WHO TOUCHED THE TAIL SAID IT WAS LIKE "A ROPE." THE ONE WHO FELT THE LEG SAID "A PILLAR."

THE BELLY -- "A WALL." THE TUSK -- "A SOLID PIPE." THE TRUNK -- "A TREE BRANCH."

AND THE LAST ONE, WHO HAD TOUCHED ITS EAR, INSISTED IT WAS "A HAND FAN."

THEY COULDN'T AGREE. IT GOT SO HEATED, THEY STARTED FIGHTING.

THEY WOULD'VE KILLED EACH OTHER IF THE KING HADN'T STEPPED IN.

THE KING HAD PROVED HIS POINT. ANYONE WHO HOLDS TO A SINGLE WAY OF THINKING IS BLIND TO THE TRUTH.



I WAS GIVEN A GIFT
OF ENORMOUS POWER.
INSTEAD OF HARBORING
IT, I INDULGED MYSELF,
SMASHING THINGS WITH
THE SAME MINDLESS
FORETHOUGHT AS...

...DANNEE

SO,
WHAT'RE YOU
SAYING?

THAT
NO ONE
UNDERSTANDS
THE REAL
YOU?

HAD YOU
EVER HEARD
THAT STORY
BEFORE?

SURE.

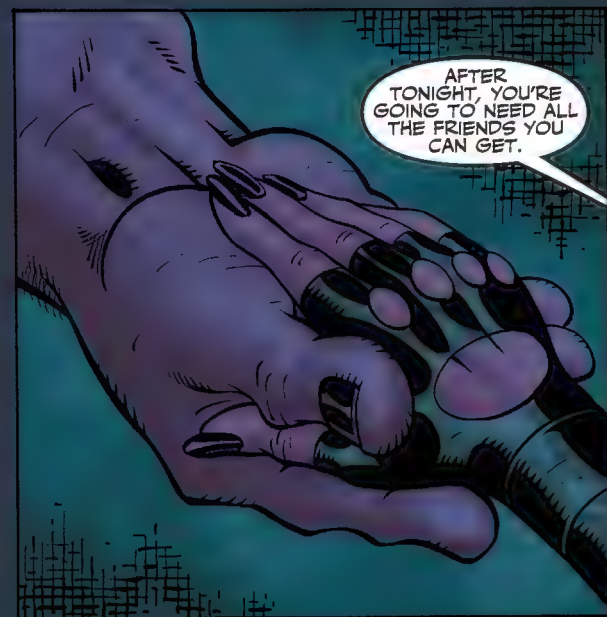
SOMEONE
I LOVED TOLD
IT TO ME.

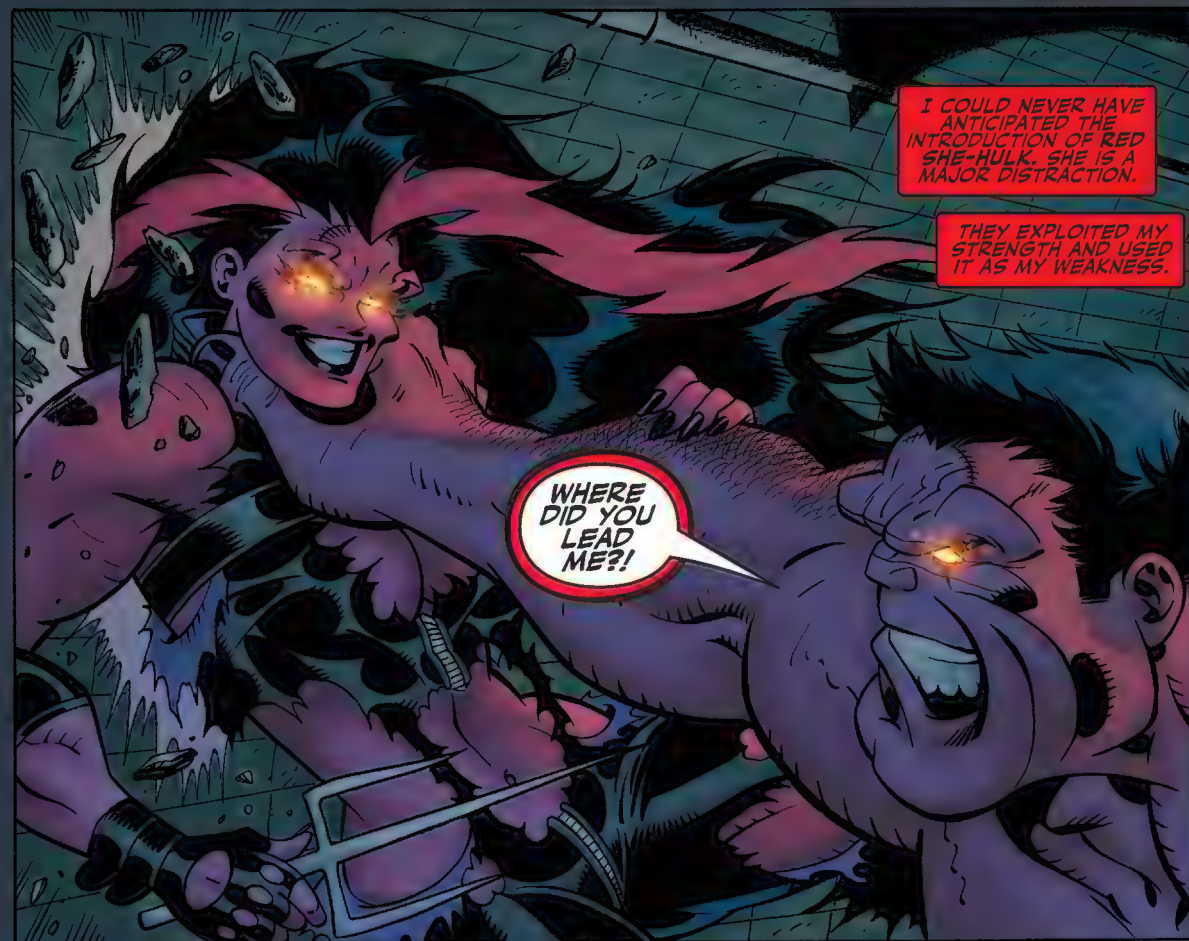
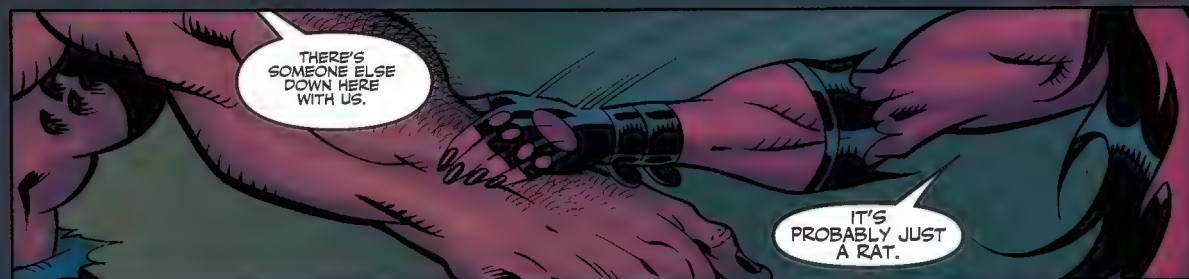
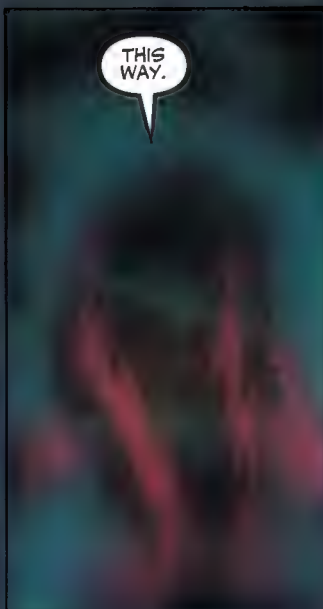


HE'S DEAD
TO ME NOW.

WEAKNESS CAN'T
BE TAUGHT. IT'S A
FLAW OF CHARACTER.







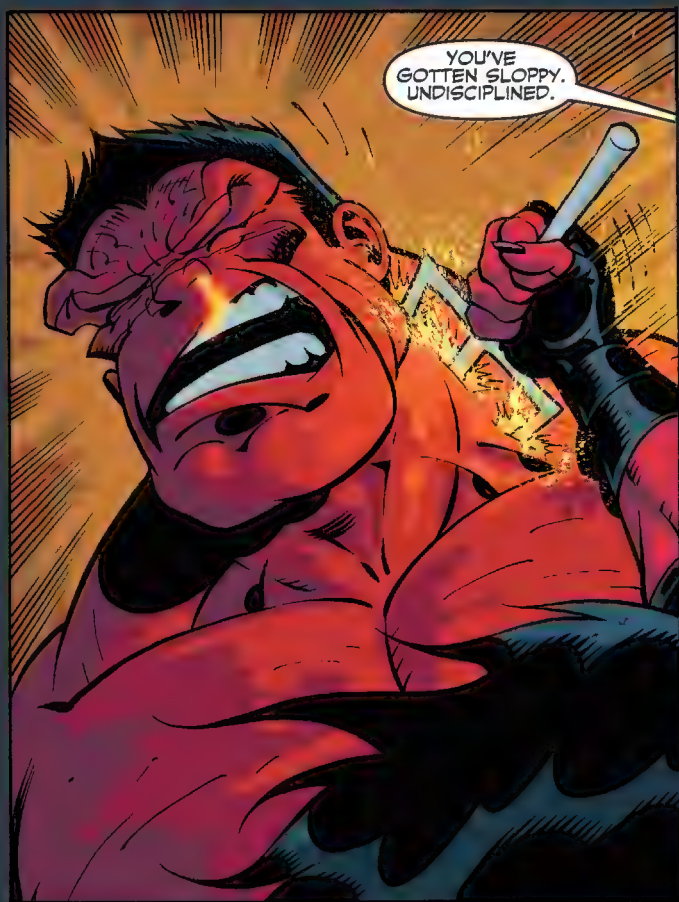


YOU DIDN'T LIKE
OUR LITTLE WALK
AND TALK?

THE PEOPLE I'VE
ALLIED MYSELF WITH
MAY BE MANY THINGS...



STALLING UNTIL
EVERYONE COULD GET
BACK INTO PLACE.



YOU'VE
GOTTEN SLOPPY.
UNDISCIPLINED.



EXPENDABLE.

...BUT EVERYTHING
THEY DO IS FOR A VERY
SPECIFIC REASON.



PACKAGE
DELIVERED.

THREE
GUESSES.

AND
THE FIRST
TWO DON'T
COUNT.

WHO'S
SURGLE
THERE...?

I SEE NOW HOW
BLIND I WAS.

THERE IS A TRAITOR.
RIGHT HERE. SOMEONE
I TRUSTED.



THIS
IS WHAT'S
CALLED...
...THE
DOUBLE-CROSS...

LEONARD SAMSON
WAS A PSYCHIATRIST
BEFORE EXPOSING HIMSELF
TO SAMMA SADIATION.

WHILE I WAS STUDYING
EVERYONE'S TACTICS, HE WAS
OBSERVING MY BEHAVIOR.

WHILE I WALLOWED IN
THE EXCESS OF POWER --
TAKING ON THOR AND THE
SILVER SURFER -- I REVEALED
TO HIM THE ONE AREA THAT
I COULD BE VULNERABLE.

MY SECRET.

DOMINO SEEING
WHAT SHE SAW WASN'T
A RANDOM ACT.

SAMSON WAS
THERE. SAMSON
SET THIS ALL UP.

MY MISTAKE.
NOTHING IS
RANDOM.

THE ONLY
QUESTION LEFT IS
HOW FAR UP DOES
THIS CONSPIRACY
AGAINST ME GO...

...AND WHO
DO I HAVE TO
KILL TO PUT
AN END TO IT...

ROUND ★ FIVE



THE MAN IN THE MIRROR



ISSUE 17 COVER ★ IAN CHURCHILL, MARK FARMER & PETER STEIGERWALD





AND BECAUSE HE'S
"LEONARD SAMSON, PHD" --
SHRINK TO THE STARS --
YOU BELIEVE HIM?

THIS ~~GGRRCH~~ IS
WHAT HE DOES.

HE GETS INSIDE
YOUR HEAD. TELLS
YOU WHAT YOU WANT
TO ~~GAAKKK~~ HEAR.

THE ARMY
HUNTED HIM.
WE ALL DID.

HIS SO-CALLED
FRIENDS FEARED HIM.



WAIT JUST
A SECOND, RED MAN.
IF HE'S INSIDE MY HEAD,
I WANT FIRST'S, LAST'S
AND A SECURITY
DEPOSIT.

NO LATE
NIGHT PARTIES.
AND NO PETS
ALLOWED. I RUN
A RESPECTABLE
HEAD.

DEADPOOL. NOW WOULD BE A GOOD
TIME TO EITHER STOP TALKING OR
STOP BREATHING.



THEY DON'T
TRUST YOU.

WHY
SHOULD
THEY?

YOU
BROUGHT
THIS ON
YOURSELF.

YOU
BRAGGED.
YOU BULLIED.
LET'S FACE IT.
NOBODY
LIKES
YOU.



WE WORK WITH
THE SAME ~~JURGE~~
PEOPLE.

IF I SCREWED
YOU -- SAMSON'S
SCREWED YOU
WORSE.

"BETRAYAL" BECAME
PART OF HIS LIFE.
IT WAS HIS LIFE.

BECAUSE
YOU ~~GGRRCHHH~~
BETRAYED ME FOR...
NOTHING.

FOR A LONG TIME,
HE WAS ALONE. THERE
WAS ONLY ONE HULK.

MY GUESS IS YOU
DON'T PLAY CHESS.
BECAUSE IF YOU DID,
YOU'D KNOW THAT
WAS A TERRIBLE
OPENING.

DEADPOOL'S
MILLION DOLLARS
IS ALREADY IN A
SWISS BANK
ACCOUNT.

THE PUNISHER HAS
THE NAMES OF EVERY
MAN, WOMAN AND CHILD IN
THE WITNESS PROTECTION
PROGRAM ON AN
ENCRYPTED FILE.

AFTER YOU'RE
DEAD, THEY'LL EACH GET
THEIR PASSWORD.





CODE RED

the
conclusion

AND NOW
THIS WOMAN.

SHE APPEARED OUT
OF NOWHERE. RED.
ANGRY. POWERFUL.
WITHOUT A NAME
OF HER OWN.

JUST LIKE...ME.

I'VE GOT
MY VISION
BACK.

chapter
FOUR: the MAN in the MIRROR



YOU'RE THE **LOWEST** OF LOW, SAMSON.

WHATEVER ELSE YOU THINK OF THE RED HULK --

-- HE'S NOT CAPABLE OF BEING A **TRAITOR**.

THEN EITHER YOU DON'T ~~ERRRHH~~ KNOW HIM VERY WELL --

-- OR HE'S ~~SARCHE~~ MADE A FOOL OUT OF YOU. **HIS** FOOL.



I SEE A TRAIN A COMIN'. A COMIN' DOWN THE TRACKS.

I NEVER FIGURED YOU FOR A **CASH** FAN.

ME? I LOVES ME SOME **CASH**. MOOLAH. DINEROS. GREENBACKS.

NEVER MIND.

DOUGH. BENJAMINS. LETTUCE. WAMPUM!

YOU WANT **MORE?**

WE HAVEN'T EVEN **STARTED**.



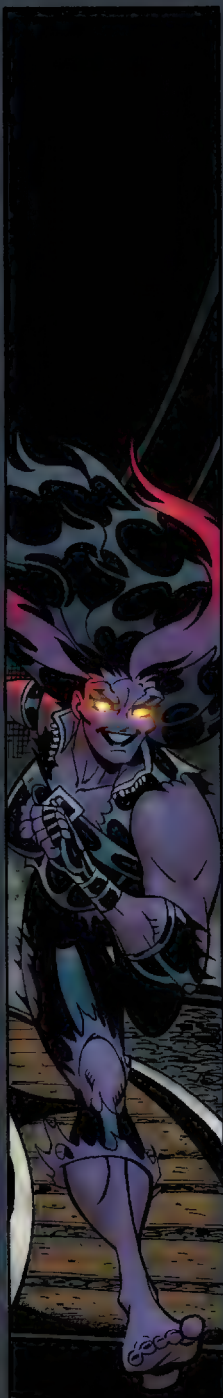
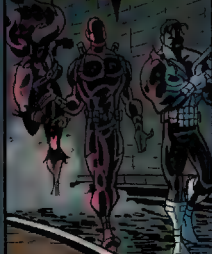
I KNOW WHAT IT IS TO GO AT IT ALONE. THE POWER LENDS ITSELF TO THINKING THAT WAY.



YOU
THINK I'M
GOING
TO GET
PAID?

DON'T
COUNT
ON IT.
MY GUESS
IS THE
INTEL I
WAS PROMISED
IS NOW GONE
TOO. MAYBE IT
WASN'T EVER
THERE AT
ALL...

HOW
COME I
NEVER GET
THE GIRL AT
END OF THE
MOVIE?



WHEN YOU CAN'T
BE CHALLENGED,
WHAT DO YOU
NEED ANYONE
ELSE FOR?

BUT AS BANNER
FOUND OUT --
AS I'VE FOUND
OUT -- IT COMES
WITH A COST.



EVERYBODY CALM DOWN.

I'M NOT GOING TO BE HERE VERY LONG --

EVERYDAY PEOPLE. CHILDREN.

THIS IS HOW THEY SEE ME.

THE FEAR.

MOMMY...IS THE MONSTER GOING TO EAT US?

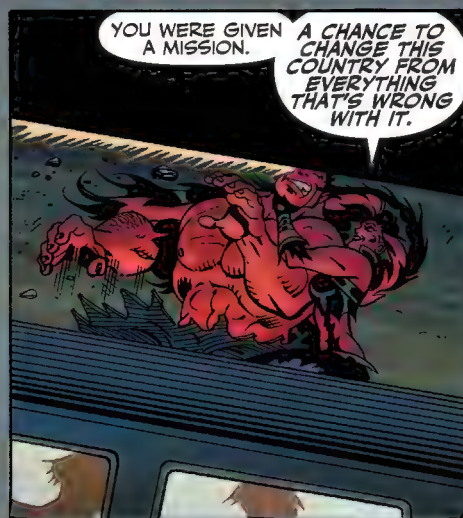
DON'T KILL US!



HOW WE ALL SAW BANNER...



COME HERE, YOU!



YOU WERE GIVEN A MISSION.

A CHANCE TO CHANGE THIS COUNTRY FROM EVERYTHING THAT'S WRONG WITH IT.



YOU DIVERTED FROM THE PLAN.

JUST LIKE YOUR ENTIRE LIFE, YOU LET YOUR EMOTIONS CLOUD YOUR JUDGMENT.

AND FOR WHAT? TO GET BACK AT BANNER?



HOW DO
YOU KNOW ABOUT
ANY OF THAT?
WHO THE
HELL ARE
YOU?!



WHAT'S THE
MATTER?
DID I
GET UNDER
YOUR THICK
RED SKIN THE
WAY NOBODY
ELSE HAS...?



YOU'RE
GOING TO
ANSWER MY
QUESTIONS OR
YOU'RE GOING
TO DIE FOR
IT.

DO YOU
THINK THE
PEOPLE YOU
WORK FOR
EVEN
CARE?

IF THAT'S
YOUR WAY TO
GET ME TO
QUESTION MY
LOYALTY --



-- YOU
REALLY DON'T
KNOW ANYTHING
ABOUT ME.

NO ONE
REMEMBERS HOW FOR
A LONG TIME BANNER
KEPT IT A SECRET.

IT WASN'T OBVIOUS.
BANNER WAS SO WEAK.

AND THE HULK...?

HE WAS THE
STRONGEST
THERE IS.





LISTEN
TO ME VERY
CAREFULLY.

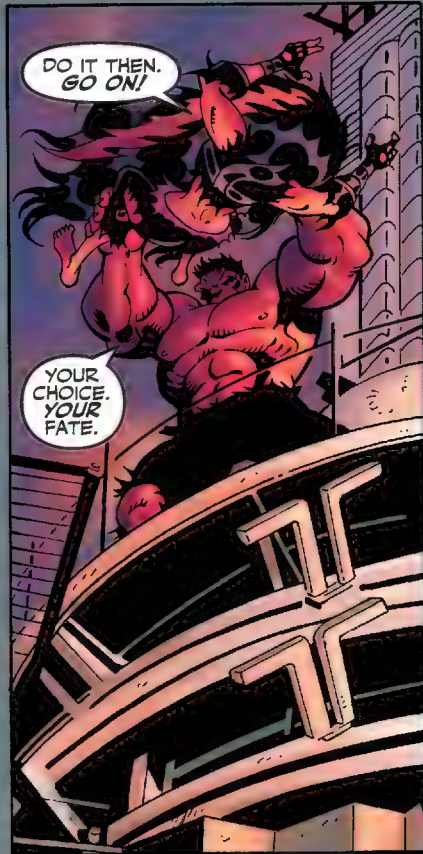
MAYBE
SAMSON FILLED
IN A FEW BLANKS
SO YOU KNEW
WHAT TO
SAY --

-- BUT
THERE ARE
ONLY A HANDFUL
OF PEOPLE WHO
KNOW WHAT'S
TO COME.

I WANT
TO KNOW WHO
YOU ARE AND
WHY THEY
"CREATED"
YOU.

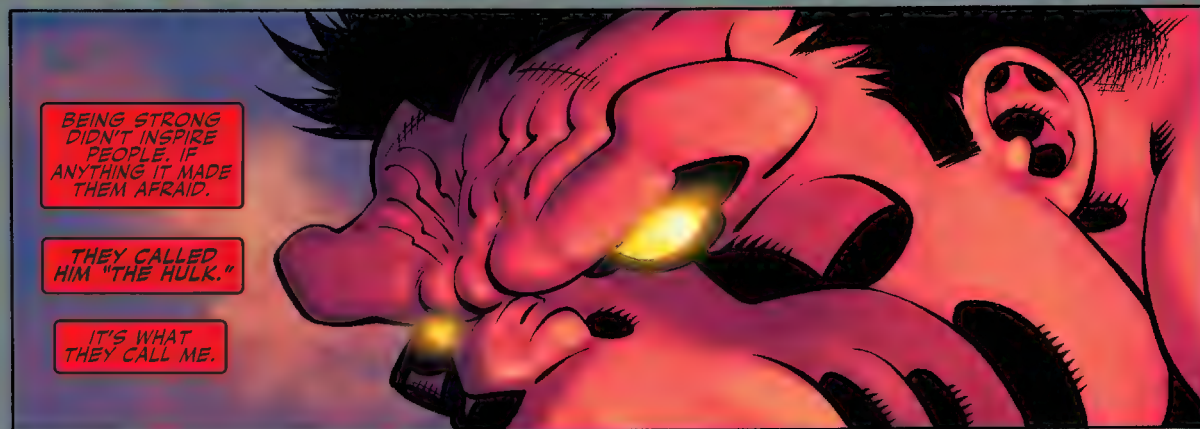


I JUMPED
DOWN FROM
THE MOON AND
SURVIVED --
-- CAN
YOU TAKE THAT
CHANCE?



DO IT THEN.
GO ON!

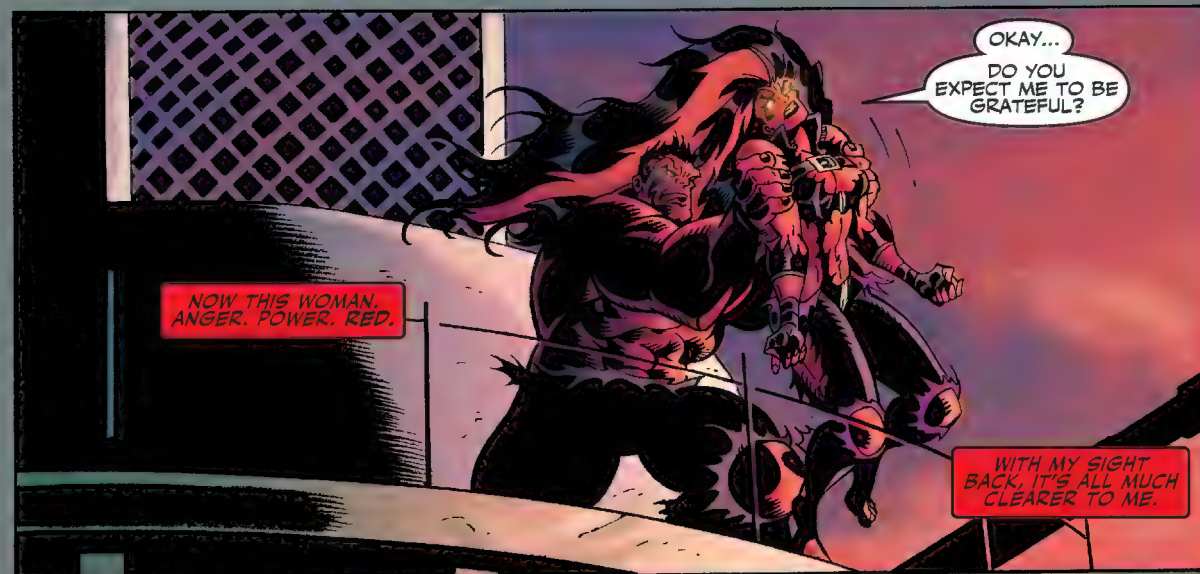
YOUR
CHOICE.
YOUR
FATE.



BEING STRONG
DIDN'T INSPIRE
PEOPLE. IF
ANYTHING IT MADE
THEM AFRAID.

THEY CALLED
HIM "THE HULK."

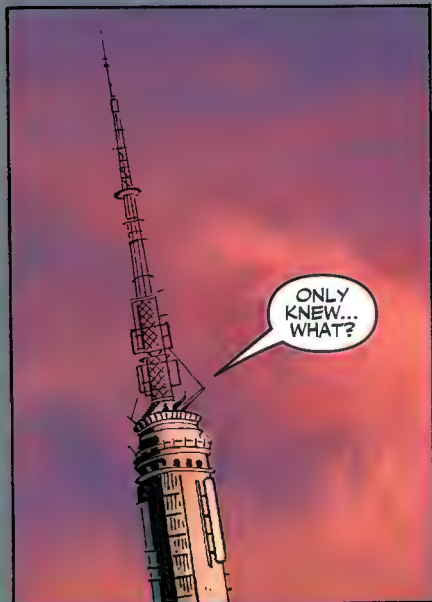
IT'S WHAT
THEY CALL ME.



OKAY...
DO YOU
EXPECT ME TO BE
GRATEFUL?

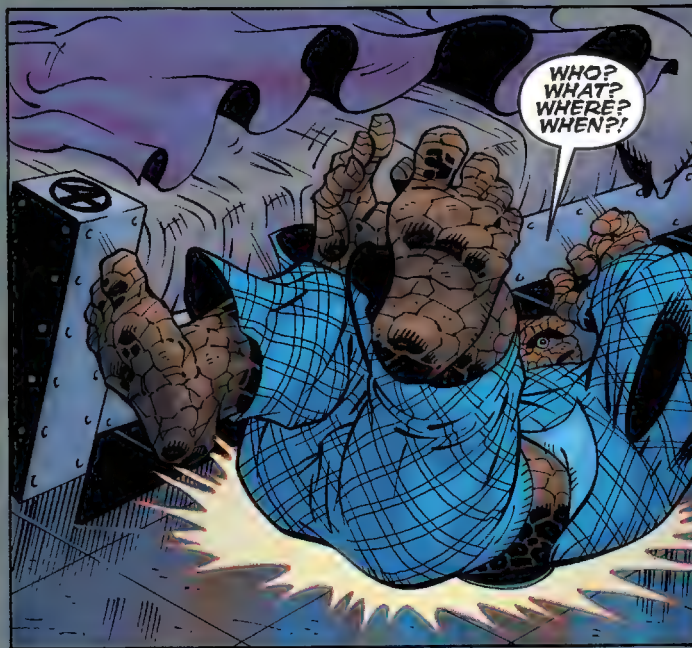
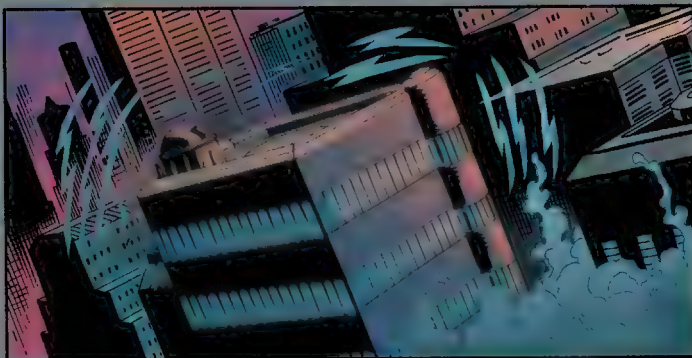
NOW THIS WOMAN.
ANGER. POWER. RED.

WITH MY SIGHT
BACK, IT'S ALL MUCH
CLEARER TO ME.





...THERE'S NO ONE
YOU CAN TRUST.



WHO?
WHAT?
WHERE?
WHEN?!



S'OKAY. WHEN I FINDS
OUT WHO DISTURBED THE
EVER LOVIN' BLUE-EYED
THING'S BEAUTY
SLEEP --

-- THERE'S
GONNA BE
ALL KINDS
OF HECK
TO PAY!

YOU'RE JUST
A MONSTER.

THE SECRET
OF WHO YOU
ARE THEN
BECOMES YOUR
SAFE HOUSE.

THE MOST
VALUABLE
THING YOU
HAVE.



I WASN'T
SURE YOU'D
SURVIVE THAT
FALL.

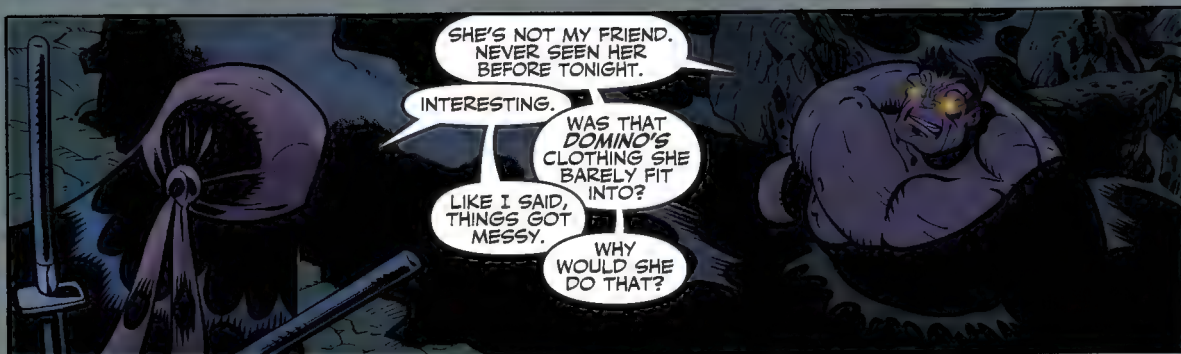
WELL, NOW
YOU KNOW. THAT
RED SHE-HULK
SAID YOU
WERE DEAD,
ELEKTRA.

WELL,
NOW YOU
KNOW.

HOW'D
YOU LOSE
YOUR SAI?

SAME
WAY DOMINO
LOST HER
GUN.

THINGS
GOT MESSY
WITH YOUR
FRIEND.



SHE'S NOT MY FRIEND.
NEVER SEEN HER
BEFORE TONIGHT.

INTERESTING.

WAS THAT
DOMINO'S
CLOTHING SHE
BARELY FIT
INTO?

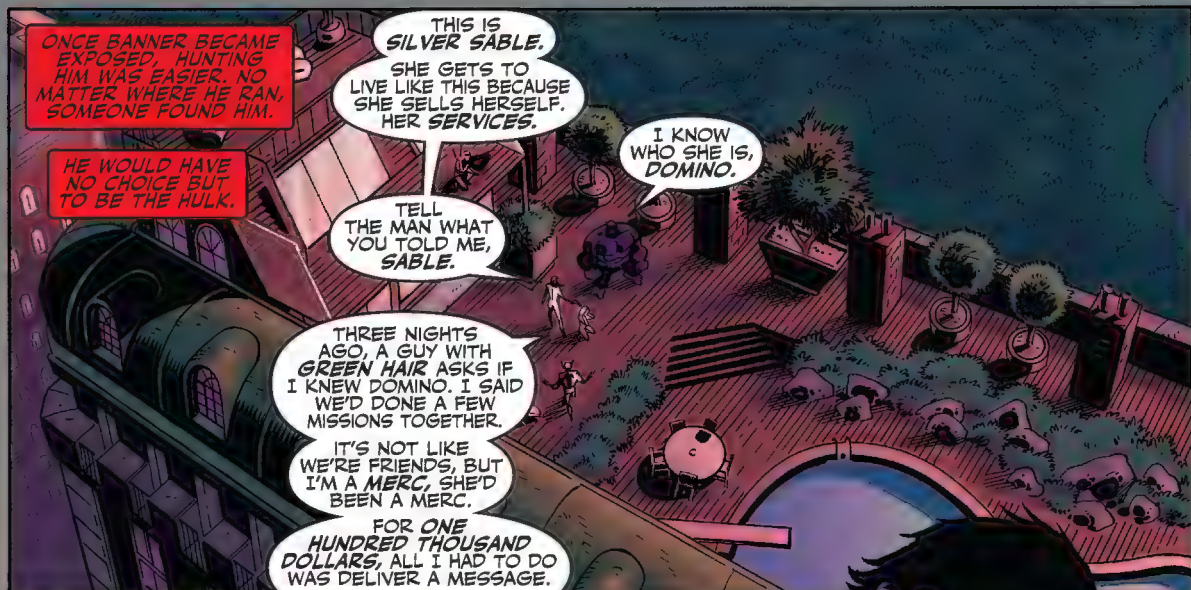
LIKE I SAID
THINGS GOT
MESSY.

WHY
WOULD SHE
DO THAT?



DO YOU WANT
TO PLAY TWENTY
QUESTIONS OR
DO YOU WANT
TO FIND
DOMINO?

THE MOST
VALUABLE
THING YOU
HAVE.



ONCE BANNER BECAME EXPOSED, HUNTING HIM WAS EASIER. NO MATTER WHERE HE RAN, SOMEONE FOUND HIM.

HE WOULD HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO BE THE HULK.

THIS IS SILVER SABLE.

SHE GETS TO LIVE LIKE THIS BECAUSE SHE SELLS HERSELF. HER SERVICES.

I KNOW WHO SHE IS, DOMINO.

TELL THE MAN WHAT YOU TOLD ME, SABLE.

THREE NIGHTS AGO, A GUY WITH GREEN HAIR ASKS IF I KNEW DOMINO. I SAID WE'D DONE A FEW MISSIONS TOGETHER.

IT'S NOT LIKE WE'RE FRIENDS, BUT I'M A MERC, SHE'D BEEN A MERC.

FOR ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS, ALL I HAD TO DO WAS DELIVER A MESSAGE.

THERE WAS SOMETHING GOING DOWN AT SAM'S BARBERSHOP LAST NIGHT.

THAT IT USED TO BE A S.H.I.E.L.D. FRONT --

-- AND NOW IT WAS A FRONT FOR A.I.M.

THAT WAS IT.

I'VE GOT TRUST ISSUES. AS IN, I DON'T TRUST ANYONE.

BUT ONCE UPON A TIME I HAD A HUSBAND --

-- YOU DID?

-- HE'S THE ONE WHO NAMED ME "DOMINO."



HE GOT INVOLVED WITH A.I.M.

THEN HE GOT DEAD.



WHATEVER TRUST ISSUES YOU HAD WITH SABLE, YOU HAD BIGGER ISSUES WITH A.I.M.

YOU WENT, NOT EXPECTING ME TO BE THERE.

IT REALLY WAS WRONG PLACE, WRONG TIME.

THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN TELLING YOU!

AND AT THIS POINT? I'M NOT SURE WHAT I SAW.

HIS ENTIRE LIFE HAD BEEN HIS WORK. AN EXPERT IN HIS FIELD, BUT NO ONE WOULD EVER HIRE HIM AGAIN.



IN A LOT OF WAYS,
BRUCE BANNER
CEASED TO EXIST.

I
DON'T BUY
THAT.
BUT I KNOW
ENOUGH ABOUT HUMAN
NATURE THAT IF I KILLED
YOU, YOU'VE HAD ENOUGH
TIME TO MAKE SURE WHAT
YOU *KNOW* I KNOW YOU
KNOW -- PUBLIC.

I
MIGHT'VE.

YOU
COULD'VE TOLD
WOLVERINE FOR
EXAMPLE.

SHE
COULD'VE.



OKAY. THE WAY
MY WORLD WORKS IS
EVERYBODY WANTS
SOMETHING.

IT'S
NOT ALWAYS A
GOOD THING
EITHER.



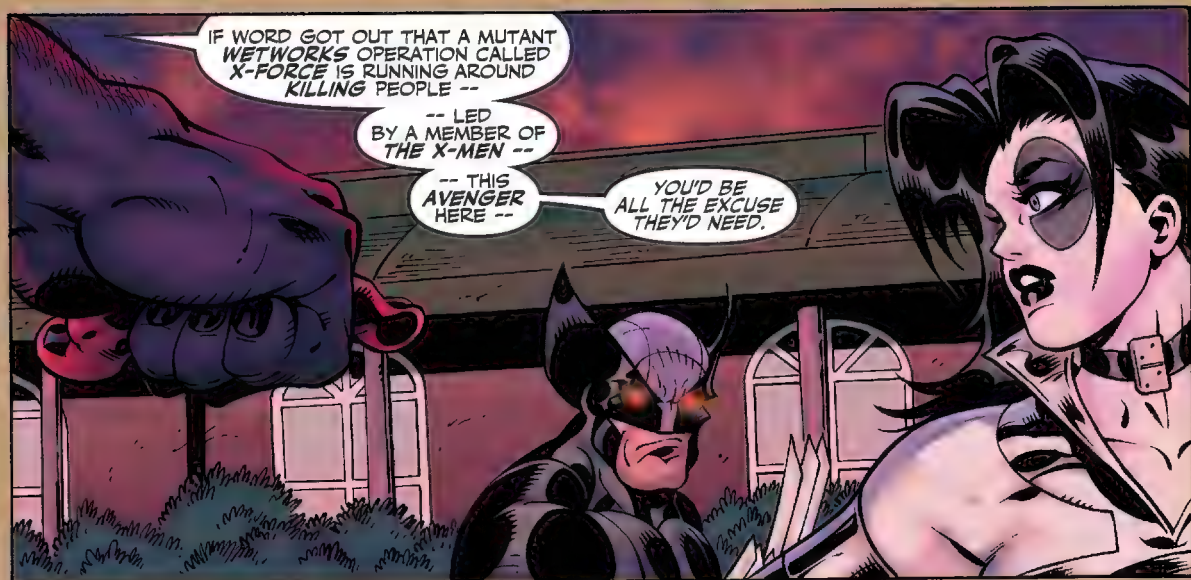
WHATEVER
YOU'RE SELLING WE
AIN'T INTERESTED.
DOMINO HOLDS ALL
THE CARDS.



DON'T KID
YOURSELF.

OUR COUNTRY
IS *LOOKING* FOR
AN EXCUSE TO WIPE
OUT ALL OF YOU
MUTANTS.

I'VE
ALREADY SEEN
THE PLANS.



IF WORD GOT OUT THAT A MUTANT
WETWORKS OPERATION CALLED
X-FORCE IS RUNNING AROUND
KILLING PEOPLE --

-- LED
BY A MEMBER OF
THE *X-MEN* --

-- THIS
AVENGER
HERE --

YOU'D BE
ALL THE EXCUSE
THEY'D NEED.



AS MUCH AS I HATE TO ADMIT IT, BANNER WAS RIGHT.

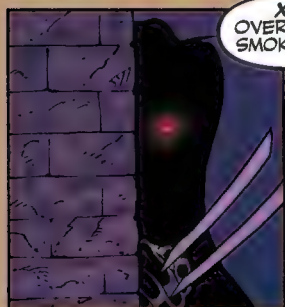
BEING THE HULK MEANT BEING ALONE.

NOW WE BOTH HAVE SOMETHING THE OTHER DOESN'T WANT KNOWN.

WE DONE?

ALMOST. FIRST, SEND EVERYBODY PACKING.

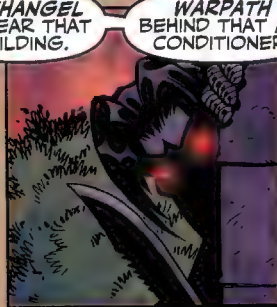
EVERYBODY...?



X-23
OVER BY THE
SMOKESTACK.



ARCHANGEL
UP NEAR THAT
BUILDING.



WARPATH
BEHIND THAT AIR
CONDITIONER.



AND YOUR
HEALER GUY -- WHAT'S
HIS NAME -- AT THE
FIRE DOOR.



HAVING A
HEALER MUST
COME IN HANDY
WHEN THINGS
GET UGLY.

AND WE
ALL KNOW I
LIKE THINGS
UGLY.



NOW WE'RE
DONE.

NOT
QUITE.

I KEEP
SILVER SABLE.

WORKS
FOR ME.



WAIT.
WHAT...?



SAMSON SET ME UP AND NOW I KNOW WHY.

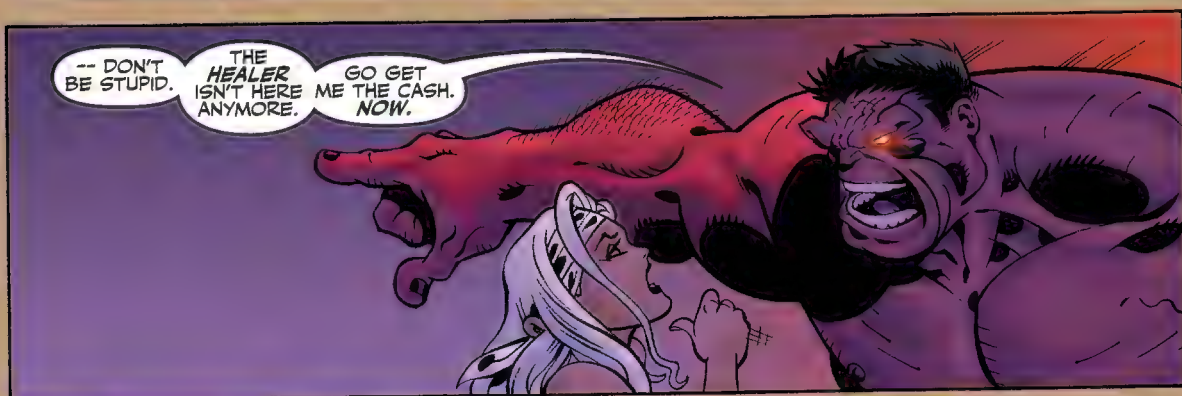
LOOK, I'LL GIVE YOU ANYTHING YOU WANT.

YOU WANT THE GUY WHO HIRED ME?

I ALREADY KNOW WHO HIRED YOU.

WHAT I WANT IS THE HUNDRED GRAND HE PAID YOU.

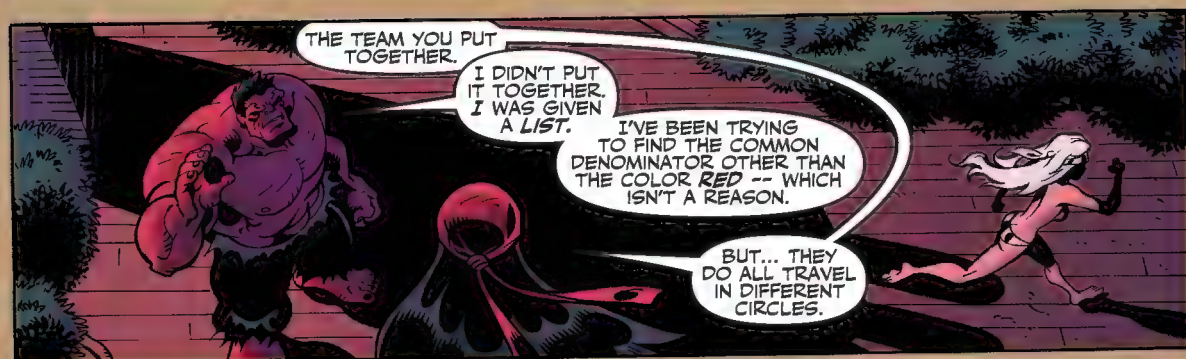
HEY, I EARNED THAT MONEY --



-- DON'T BE STUPID.

THE HEALER ISN'T HERE ANYMORE.

GO GET ME THE CASH. NOW.

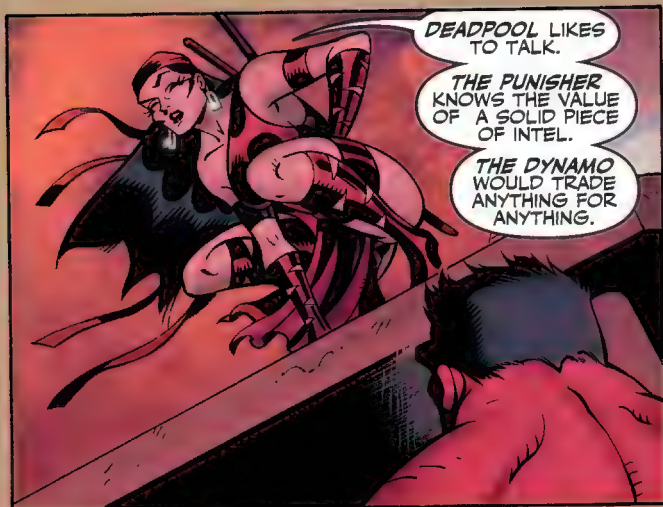


THE TEAM YOU PUT TOGETHER.

I DIDN'T PUT IT TOGETHER. I WAS GIVEN A LIST.

I'VE BEEN TRYING TO FIND THE COMMON DENOMINATOR OTHER THAN THE COLOR RED -- WHICH ISN'T A REASON.

BUT... THEY DO ALL TRAVEL IN DIFFERENT CIRCLES.



DEADPOOL LIKES TO TALK.

THE PUNISHER KNOWS THE VALUE OF A SOLID PIECE OF INTEL.

THE DYNAMO WOULD TRADE ANYTHING FOR ANYTHING.



WITH THAT CREW. IF DOMINO TOLD. IF YOUR SECRET GOT OUT.

IT'D SPREAD LIKE WILDFIRE.

HE NEEDED TO PROVE THAT HE COULD GET TO ME. THAT I COULD BE ON A LEASH IF THEY WANTED.



THUNDRA WAS YOURS, THOUGH. YOU PUT HER THERE. SHE WAS YOUR INSIDE MAN.

YOU ARE AS GOOD AS THEY SAY.

WHY DO YOU THINK YOU WERE ON THE LIST?

THIS COUNTRY WAS GOING TO HELL. I STILL BELIEVE THAT SOMETHING HAS TO BE DONE.

I MADE A DEAL WITH MEN WHO BELONG IN PRISON. I PUT INTO MOTION A PLAN THAT WOULD CHANGE THE COURSE OF HISTORY.



SOMEBODY HAD TO FIND DOMINO FOR YOU.



YOU'VE GOT A BIG PROBLEM.

I'VE GOT A LOT OF PROBLEMS.

NOT LIKE THIS ONE.

YOU'RE IN LEAGUE WITH A GROUP OF PEOPLE WHO NOW FIND YOU EXPENDABLE.



IT'S...DIFFICULT TO FIGHT A WAR AGAINST YOUR ALLIES.

THEY KNOW HOW YOU THINK.

YOU'VE DONE OKAY AGAINST THE HAND.

YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT?

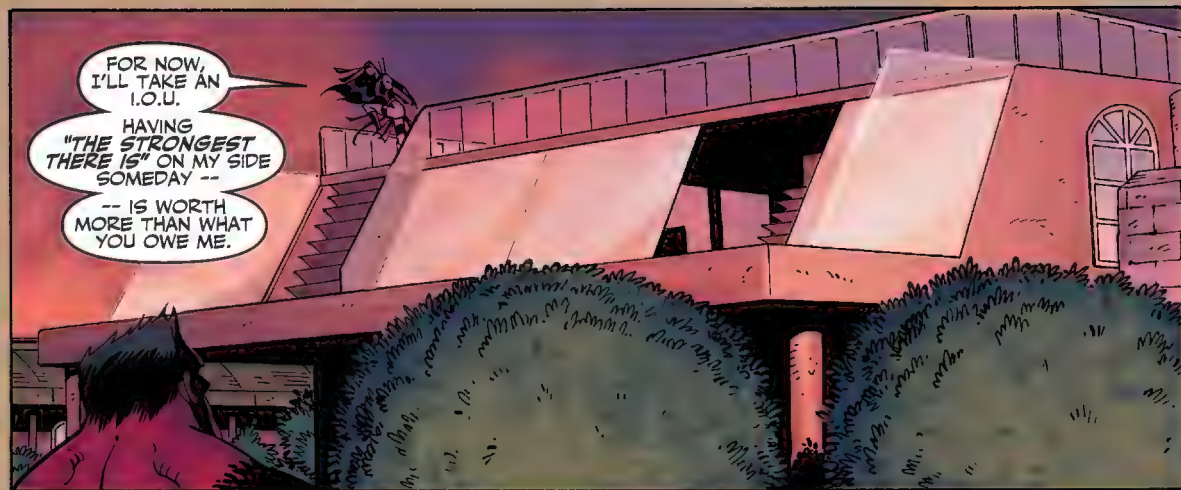
I WOULDN'T HAVE SAID IT UNLESS I DID.

BUT AFTER TONIGHT... THIS EXPERIENCE WITH DOMINO AND X-FORCE.

SAMSON'S BETRAYAL REVEALED.

SEEING MYSELF IN THE...RED SHE-HULK.

I'M THE ONE WHO WILL HAVE TO CHANGE.





YOU DIDN'T TELL ME YOU WEREN'T THE ONLY **CRIMSON DYNAMO** WHEN THEY HIRED YOU, **BORIS**.

NOBODY ASK. IN RUSSIA, THERE HAVE BEEN MANY OF US. **VANKO. NEVSKY. SHATALOV.**

THEN YOU'LL BE THE ONE WITH THE SPECS FOR YOUR **TONY STARK** UPGRADES.

NOT THE NEWEST, BUT COMPARED TO WHAT YOU'RE WORKING WITH...



MY SNIFFER'S SNIFFIN' A LOT LESS THAN A MILLION CLAMS. MORE LIKE A HUNDRED THOUSAND CLAMS.

I COULD'VE PAID YOU IN **FISHSTICKS**. BUT IT'S TRICKY STICKING FISHSTICKS IN YOUR WALLET.

FISHSTICKS! HA! I LOVES ME SOME --

-- WAIT. DID THE **RED HULK** JUST MAKE A JOKE?

HAAHAHAHA! THAT'S BETTER THAN ACTUALLY GETTING PAID!

GIRLS! FISHSTICKS ON THE HOUSE!



IT'S AN ADDRESS TO A **WEAPONS CACHE** THAT BELONGED TO **S.H.I.E.L.D.**

HARDWARE YOU CAN'T GET ANYWHERE ELSE.

THAT WASN'T OUR DEAL.

NEITHER WAS YOU FLIPPING SIDES.

...

HERE'S ANOTHER GIFT. YOU SHOULD GET OUT OF NEW YORK FOR A WHILE.

WHY'S THAT?

BECAUSE IT'S NOT GOING TO BE SAFE.



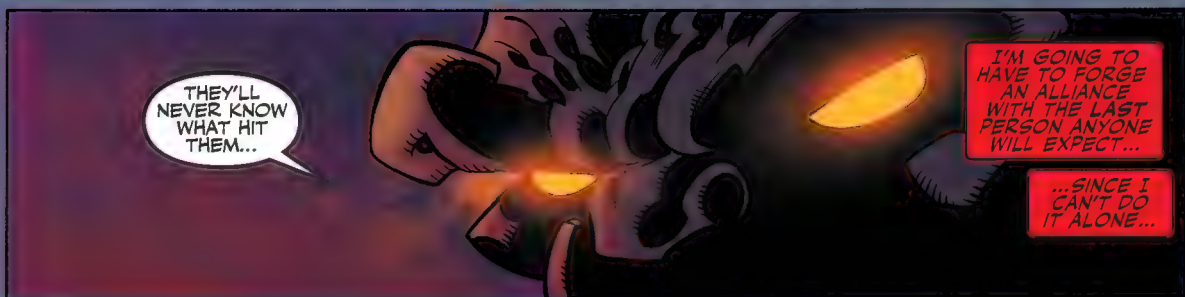
SAMSON MADE IT OUT ALIVE?

HE'S A LOT MORE DANGEROUS THAN WE THOUGHT.

IS YOUR SECRET STILL A SECRET?

I DON'T KNOW. **SOMETHING** WILL HAVE TO BE DONE ABOUT IT.

A LOT HAS CHANGED. ARE YOU PREPARED FOR WHAT'S TO COME?



THEY'LL NEVER KNOW WHAT HIT THEM...

I'M GOING TO HAVE TO FORGE AN ALLIANCE WITH THE LAST PERSON ANYONE WILL EXPECT...

...SINCE I CAN'T DO IT ALONE...

ROUND ★ SIX



D E L I L A N

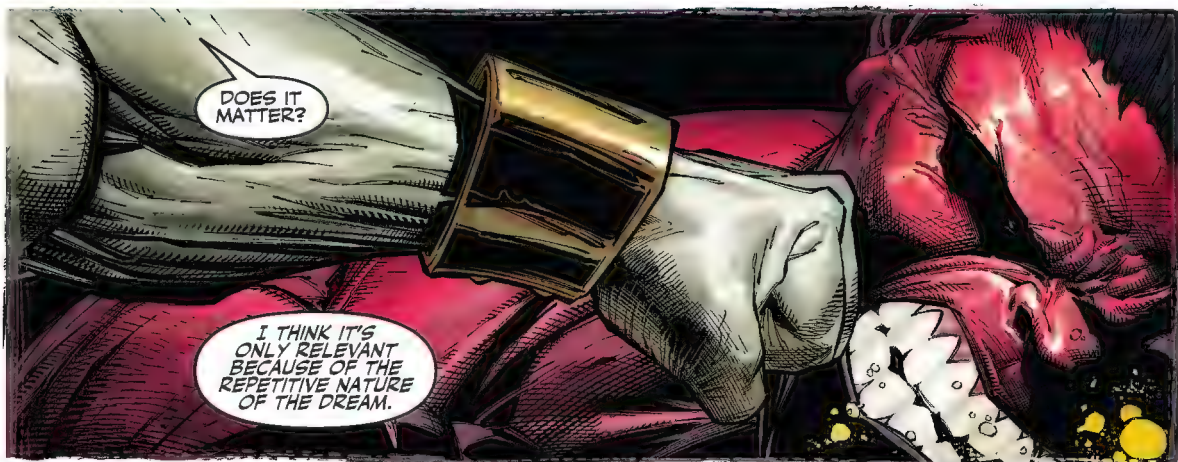


ISSUE 18 COVER ★ **WHILCE PORTACIO, DANNY MIKI & PETER STEIGERWALD**



I HAD
THE DREAM
AGAIN LAST
NIGHT.

THAT MAKES
IT... THREE OR
FOUR NIGHTS
NOW?



DOES IT
MATTER?

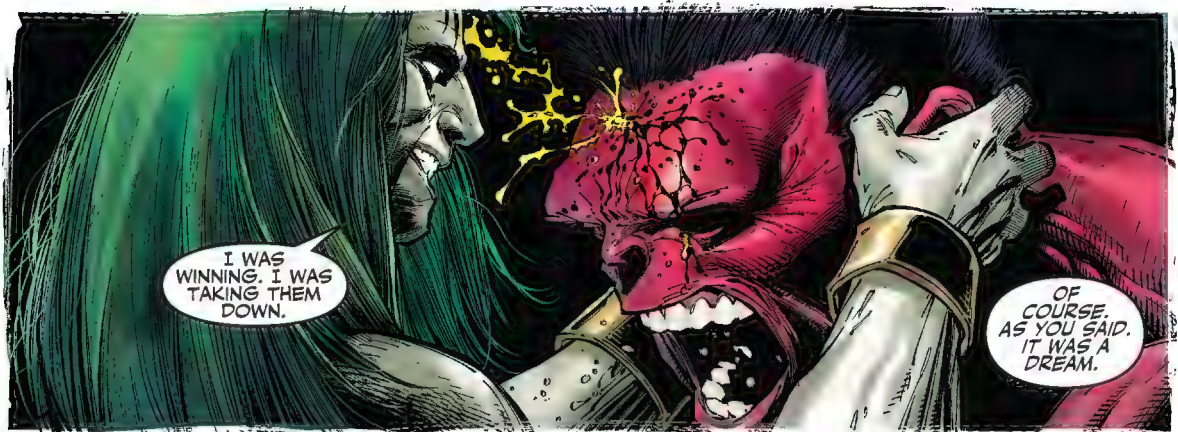
I THINK IT'S
ONLY RELEVANT
BECAUSE OF THE
REPETITIVE NATURE
OF THE DREAM.



WAS THIS
A RED DREAM
OR A GREEN
ONE?

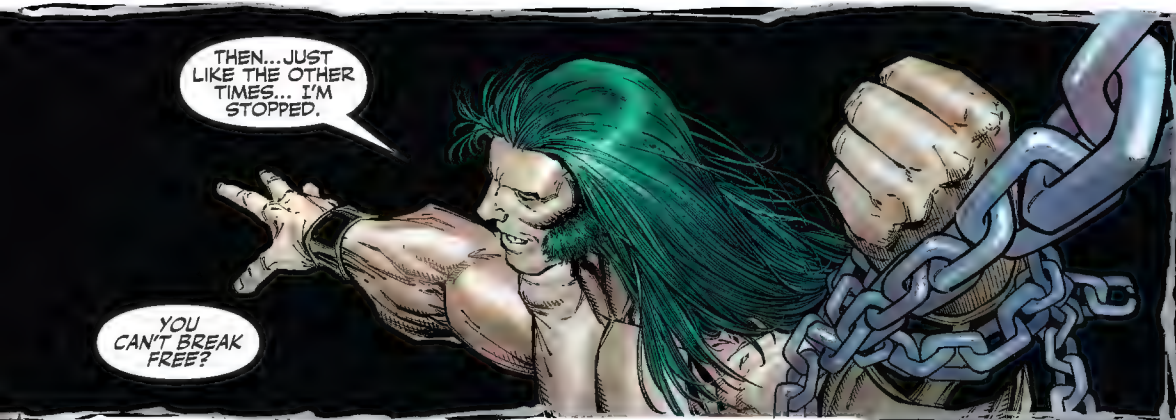
BOTH.

BOTH.



I WAS
WINNING. I WAS
TAKING THEM
DOWN.

OF
COURSE.
AS YOU SAID.
IT WAS A
DREAM.





ARE WE DONE?

YOU KNOW HOW THIS WORKS. YOU'RE FREE TO LEAVE ANYTIME YOU'D LIKE.

HARDLY.



A PSYCHIATRIC EVALUATION GIVEN WHAT'S AT STAKE AT THIS POINT DOESN'T SEEM UNREASONABLE, DOES IT?

YOU PRACTICALLY WROTE THE BOOK ON STRESS AND SUPER POWERS.

YOUR X-FACTOR SESSIONS.

YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS WITH BANNER.

IT'S NOT EVERY DAY A SHRINK GETS TO SHRINK THE SHRINK. SO TO SPEAK.



DO NOT PRESUME TO CONSIDER YOURSELF MY INTELLECTUAL EQUAL.

I WASN'T. HADN'T. LEONARD --

SAMSON.

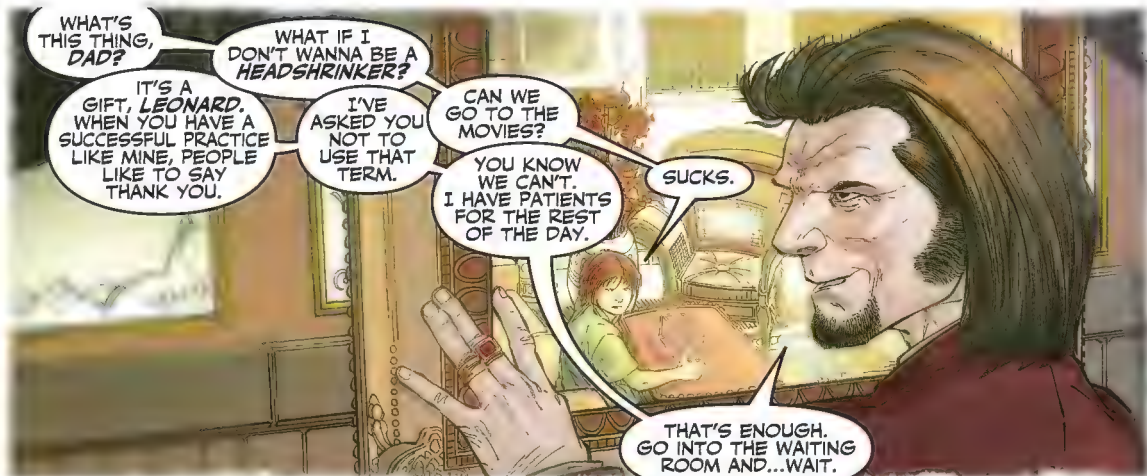
LEONARD'S NOT COMING BACK.



RIGHT. I WANT TO TALK ABOUT YOUR FATHER.

A LITTLE AMATEURISH, DON'T YOU THINK? "DADDY ISSUES?"

IS THAT WHAT YOU HAVE?



WHAT'S THIS THING, DAD?

WHAT IF I DON'T WANNA BE A HEADSHRINKER?

IT'S A GIFT, **LEONARD**. WHEN YOU HAVE A SUCCESSFUL PRACTICE LIKE MINE, PEOPLE LIKE TO SAY THANK YOU.

I'VE ASKED YOU NOT TO USE THAT TERM.

CAN WE GO TO THE MOVIES?

YOU KNOW WE CAN'T. I HAVE PATIENTS FOR THE REST OF THE DAY.

SUCKS.

THAT'S ENOUGH. GO INTO THE WAITING ROOM AND...WAIT.



YOUR FATHER'S PRACTICE. IT WAS MOSTLY WOMEN, RIGHT? YOUNG WOMEN. PRETTY.

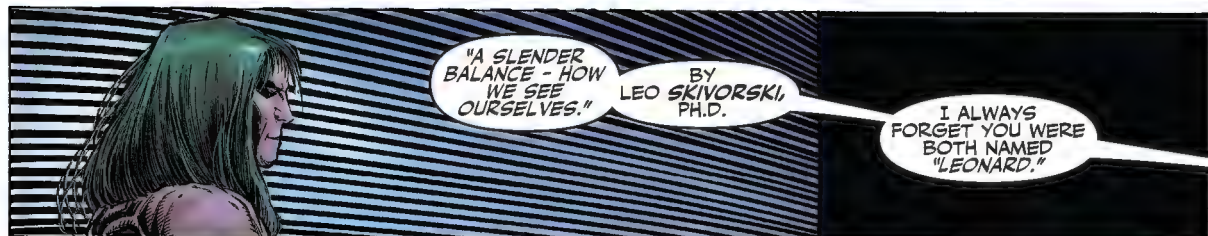


CAREFUL WHERE YOU'RE GOING WITH THIS.

I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE WITH IT. IT WAS MERELY AN OBSERVATION BASED ON HIS BOOK.

ONE OF THE FIRST COMPREHENSIVE STUDIES OF EATING DISORDERS. **ANOREXIA. BULIMIA.**

I STILL HAVE A FIRST EDITION.



"A SLENDER BALANCE - HOW WE SEE OURSELVES."

BY LEO SKIVORSKI, PH.D.

I ALWAYS FORGET YOU WERE BOTH NAMED "**LEONARD**."



SUCCESSFUL PRACTICE. PUBLISHED AUTHOR. HE CAST A PRETTY BIG SHADOW.

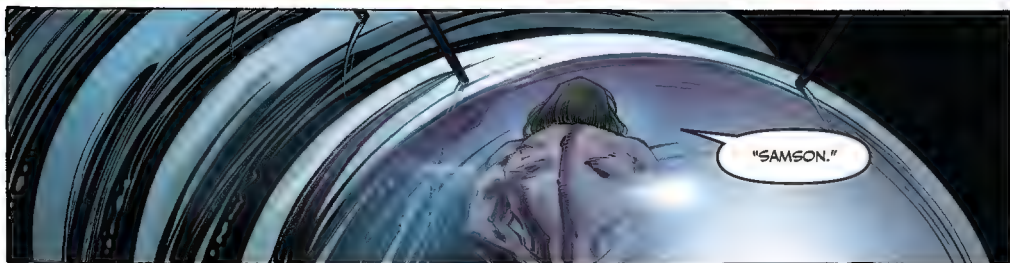
ONLY AS FAR AS THE **TULSA CITY** LIMITS.

PROBABLY WHY YOU LEFT FOR NEW YORK...

HE WAS HANDSOME TOO, WASN'T HE?

ALL THAT HAIR.

WHAT WAS THAT NICKNAME YOUR MOM GAVE HIM?



"**SAMSON**."

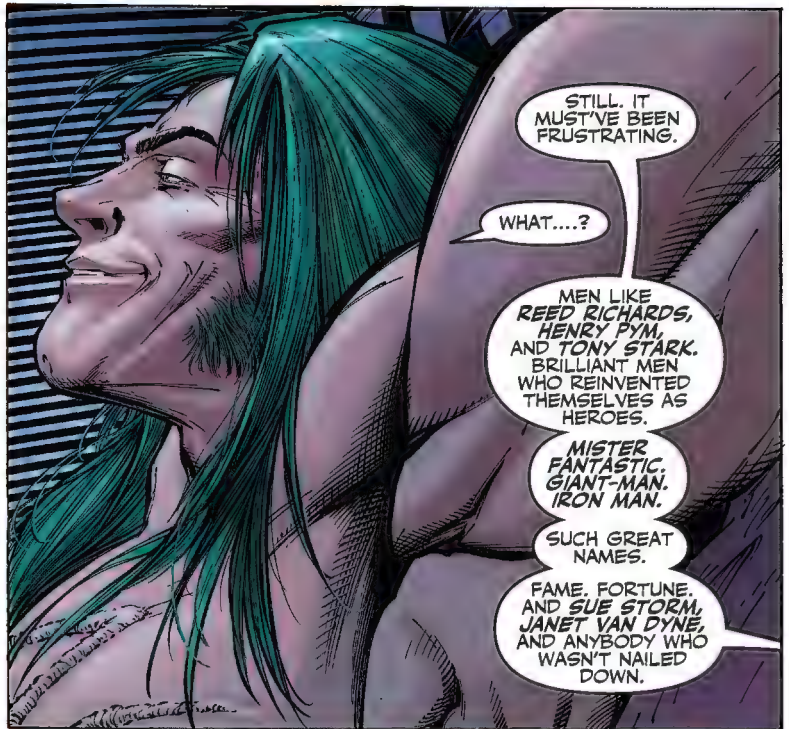
IT'S NOTHING
TO BE ASHAMED
OF. A LOT OF
PEOPLE CHANGE
THEIR NAMES.
MOVIE STARS
DO IT ALL THE
TIME.



CAN WE
MOVE OFF THIS
TOPIC?

ABSOLUTELY.
BESIDES, YOUR
FATHER DIDN'T HAVE
THE DREAMS
YOU HAD.

HE'D NEVER BEEN
TO NEW YORK CITY. SEEN
THE MIGHTY THOR OR
CAPTAIN AMERICA.



STILL. IT
MUST'VE BEEN
FRUSTRATING.

WHAT....?

MEN LIKE
REED RICHARDS,
HENRY PYM,
AND **TONY STARK**.
BRILLIANT MEN
WHO REINVENTED
THEMSELVES AS
HEROES.

**MISTER
FANTASTIC**.
GIANT-MAN.
IRON MAN.

SUCH GREAT
NAMES.

FAME. FORTUNE.
AND **SUE STORM**,
JANET VAN DYNE,
AND ANYBODY WHO
WASN'T NAILED
DOWN.



HERE
YOU WERE.
"**DOC SAMSON**."
AND YET, YOU
WEREN'T...

I WASN'T...
WHAT?





IS
THAT WHY
YOU STARTED
TO STUDY
BANNER?

HE WASN'T
AS FORTUNATE AS
THE OTHERS. HE
DIDN'T GET TO
BE A HERO.

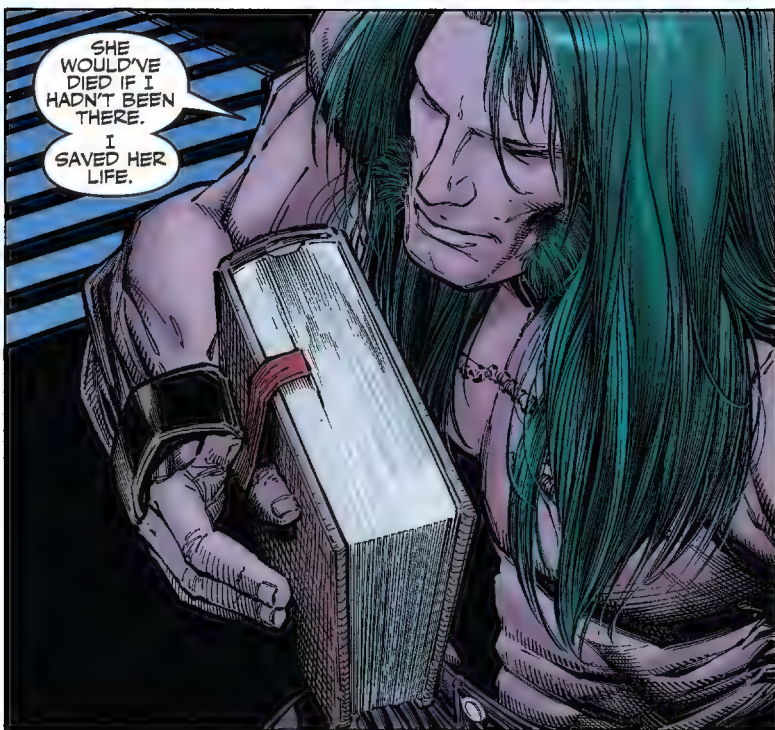
HE GOT
TO BE THE
MONSTER.

AND HE
DIDN'T GET
THE GIRL.



BETTY
ROSS.

LET'S TALK
ABOUT YOUR...
"DELILAH."



SHE
WOULD'VE
DIED IF I
HADN'T BEEN
THERE.

I
SAVED HER
LIFE.



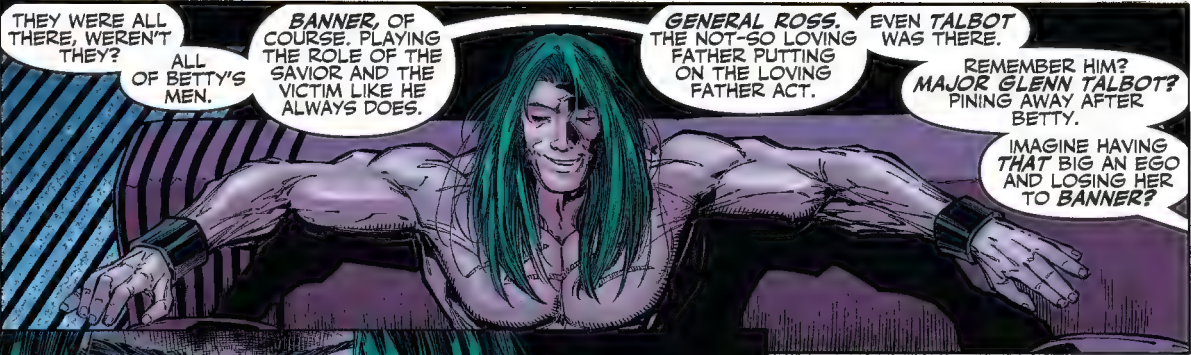
GOT
TO SAVE
YOUR OWN
AS WELL.



FOLLOW ME, GENTLEMEN.

IF EVERYONE JUST LISTENS TO ME AND DOES WHAT I TELL THEM TO DO --

-- WE'LL HAVE THIS PROBLEM SOLVED.



THEY WERE ALL THERE, WEREN'T THEY?

ALL OF BETTY'S MEN.

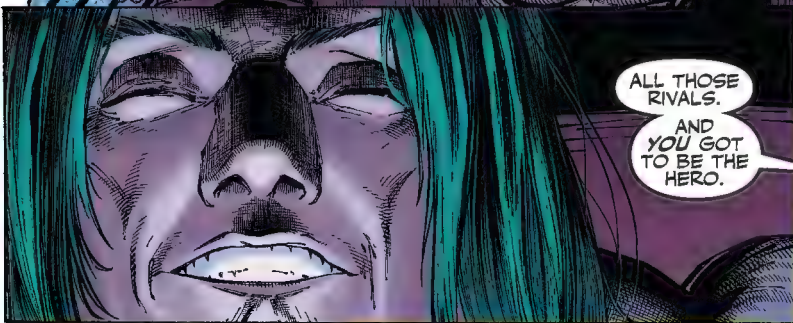
BANNER, OF COURSE. PLAYING THE ROLE OF THE SAVIOR AND THE VICTIM LIKE HE ALWAYS DOES.

GENERAL ROSS, THE NOT-SO LOVING FATHER PUTTING ON THE LOVING FATHER ACT.

EVEN TALBOT WAS THERE.

REMEMBER HIM? MAJOR GLENN TALBOT? PINING AWAY AFTER BETTY.

IMAGINE HAVING THAT BIG AN EGO AND LOSING HER TO BANNER?



ALL THOSE RIVALS.
AND YOU GOT TO BE THE HERO.



MY NEW, EXPERIMENTAL CATHEXIS-RAY -- DESIGNED FOR ME BY SOME OF THE NATION'S TOP TECHNICIANS --

-- WILL DRAIN OFF THE PSYCHIC ENERGY FROM BANNER --

-- RIDDING HIM OF THE HULK --

-- REDIRECTING IT BACK AT BETTY!



...I... I'M ALIVE...!



ASTONISHING.

YES.
IT WAS.
I WAS.

IRONIC THAT
BETTY HAD BEEN...
CRYSTALLIZED.

IRONIC,
IN WHAT
SENSE?

SHE BEING
AN OBJECT
OF DESIRE...ON
DISPLAY LIKE, WELL,
AN OBJECT OF
DESIRE.

DESIRE BEING
A VERY POWERFUL
MOTIVATOR.



YOU
THEN TOOK
A HUGE RISK
BY EXPOSING
YOURSELF TO
BANNER'S
RESIDUAL
ENERGY.

KNOWING
WHAT HAD HAPPENED
TO *EMIL BLONSKY*.
SAMUEL STERNS. EVEN
BANNER HIMSELF.

I STILL DON'T
UNDERSTAND WHY
YOU DID IT.

YOU CAN'T.
YOU'RE NOT
ME.





I
WONDER HOW
I LOOK...



IF MY
COLLEAGUES IN
THE AMERICAN
PSYCHIATRIC
ASSOCIATION
COULD ONLY
SEE ME
NOW.



PRETTY
PLEASED WITH
YOURSELF.

WOULDN'T
YOU BE? ANYTHING
OTHER THAN "YES"
WOULD MEAN
YOU'RE A LIAR.

IS THERE
A HINT OF
NARCISSISM
THERE?

IS
THERE A
HINT OF ENVY
THERE?

TOUCHE.

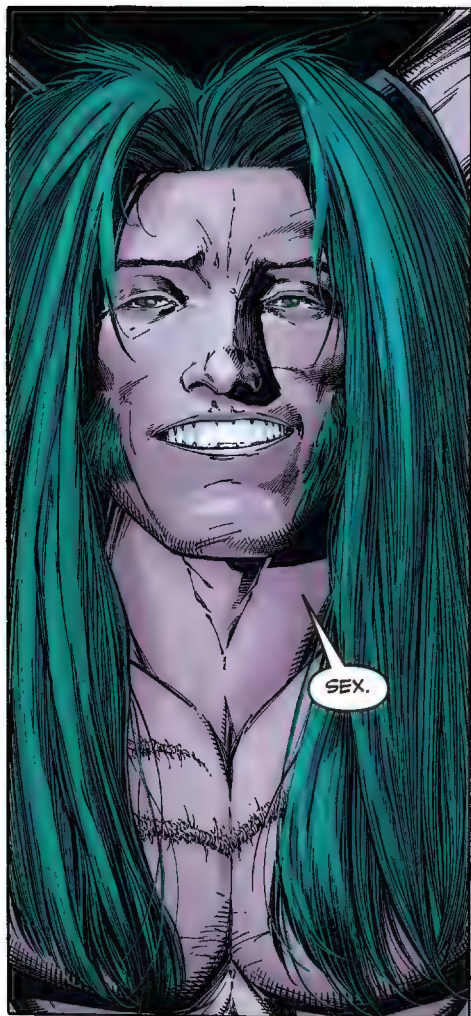


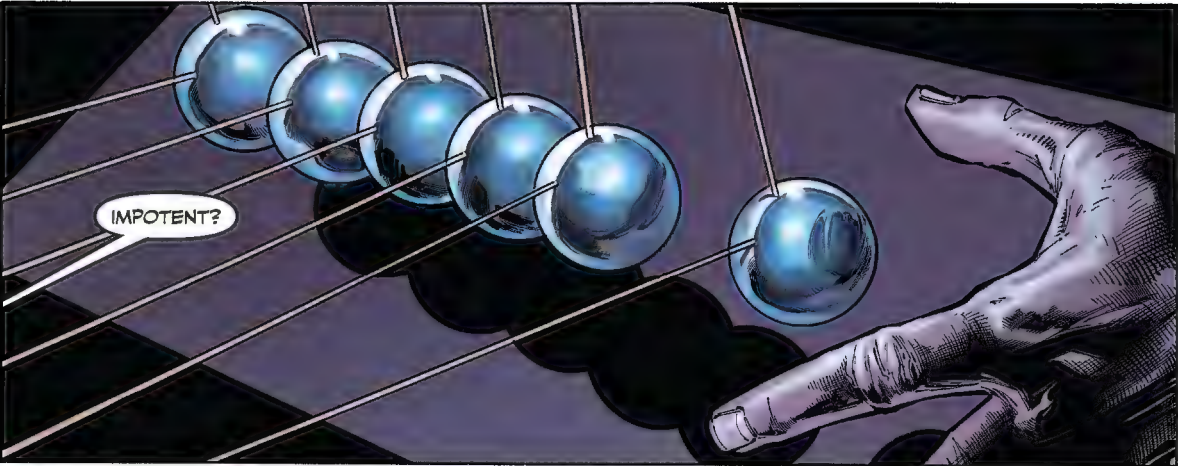
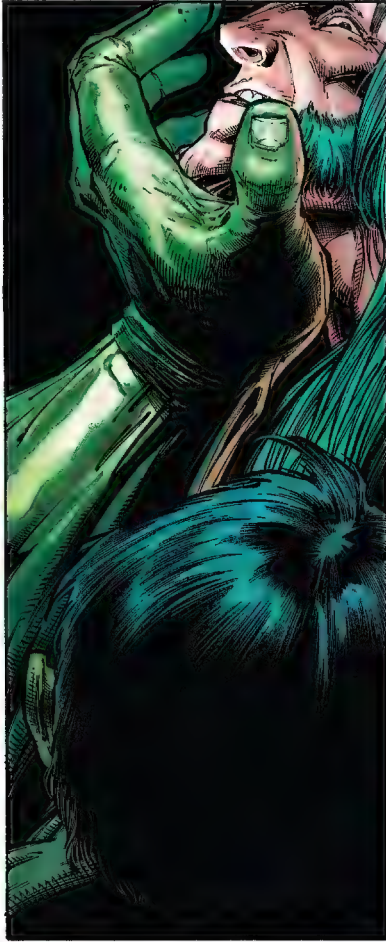
SMARTER THAN *BANNER*.
MORE LOYAL THAN *ROSS*.
PHYSICALLY SUPERIOR TO *TALBOT*.

NOT
SO HARD TO
UNDERSTAND IT
AFTER ALL,
IS IT?











HOW
DO YOU
FEEL RIGHT
NOW?



I...UM...
PLEASE.

I MADE A
MISTAKE. IT'S LIKE
YOU SAID, I'M NOT
YOUR INTELLECTUAL
EQUAL.

YOUR
INTELLECT.
THAT'S WHAT I
WANT TO TALK
ABOUT.

ISN'T *THAT*
WHERE YOU REALLY
TRIUMPHED?

YOUR WORK
WITH BANNER.
THE MERGING OF
HIS MULTIPLE
PERSONALITIES.



YOU
SHOULD'VE
WON THE
NOBEL
PRIZE.



YES...

I
SHOULD'VE.



THAT
RESEARCH LED TO OTHER WORK
AS WELL.

THE X-FACTOR
PAPERS. IT STILL
STANDS HEAD AND
SHOULDERS ABOVE
ANYONE ELSE'S
IN THE FIELD.



STILL... YOU
GOT TO *STUDY*
X-FACTOR, BUT
NOBODY ASKED
YOU TO BE ON
THE TEAM.

ALL THOSE
VERSIONS OF
THE AVENGERS.
NEW, MIGHTY,
GREAT LAKES,
WEST COAST.

CHAMPIONS.
DEFENDERS.
NEW WARRIORS.
AND NOBODY
ASKED YOU.



I
THINK WE'RE
DONE.



NOBODY
WANTS TO BE A
THERAPIST'S FRIEND.
BELIEVE ME I
KNOW.

NOBODY SAYS
THEY'RE HAVING DINNER
WITH THEIR PSYCHIATRIST.
THEY'LL HAVE DINNER
WITH A *LAWYER* BEFORE
THEY'LL BREAK BREAD
WITH ONE OF US.

WITH
ALL YOU HAVE
TO OFFER...



NOW I
KNOW WE'RE
DONE.

I UNDERSTAND.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR
TIME. IT'S TRULY
BEEN AN AMAZING
EXPERIENCE.

ONE
THING I JUST WANT
TO GO BACK TO. WHEN
YOU WERE IN NEW YORK
AND DEVELOPED THE
"CATHESIS-RAY?"

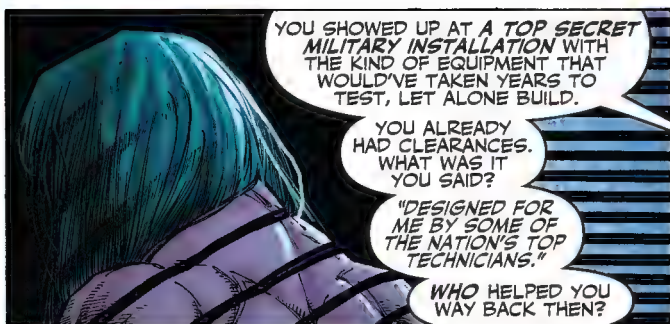


HOW
EXACTLY
DID THAT
WORK?



WE WENT
OVER THIS ALREADY.
I WAS STUDYING
BANNER AND I HAD
A *THEORY* ABOUT
DRAWING OFF
HIS ENERGY.

NO, I
GOT THAT...
IT'S...

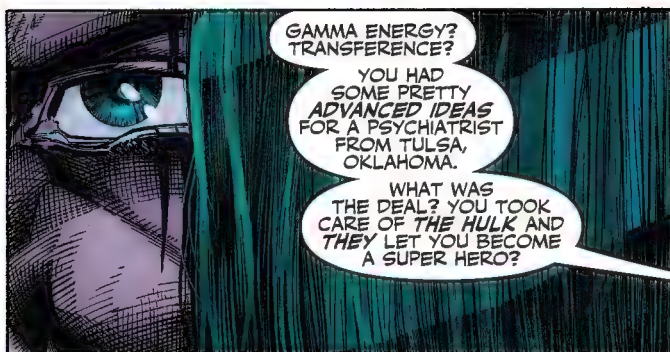


YOU SHOWED UP AT A *TOP SECRET*
MILITARY INSTALLATION WITH
THE KIND OF EQUIPMENT THAT
WOULD'VE TAKEN YEARS TO
TEST, LET ALONE BUILD.

YOU ALREADY
HAD CLEARANCES.
WHAT WAS IT
YOU SAID?

"DESIGNED FOR
ME BY SOME OF
THE NATION'S TOP
TECHNICIANS."

WHO HELPED YOU
WAY BACK THEN?



GAMMA ENERGY?
TRANSFERENCE?

YOU HAD
SOME PRETTY
ADVANCED IDEAS
FOR A PSYCHIATRIST
FROM TULSA,
OKLAHOMA.

WHAT WAS
THE DEAL? YOU TOOK
CARE OF *THE HULK* AND
THEY LET YOU BECOME
A SUPER HERO?



IS THAT
WHY YOU WENT
BACK TO WORK
FOR *THEM*
NOW?

THE PLAN
WAS GOOD, BUT
THE WORLD
WENT BAD?



IT WAS
GENERAL ROSS,
RIGHT, WHO
APPROACHED
YOU?

THEY
WERE MAKING
A *NEW HULK*.
A *RED HULK*.
MORE POWERFUL.
SMARTER.



DRAINING
THE ENERGY OFF
BANNER AND
REDIRECTING
IT...



WHAT
HAPPENED TO
LEONARD SAMSON?
WHY WASN'T BEING
DOC SAMSON
ENOUGH?



WAS IT
BECAUSE YOU
NEVER REALLY GOT
THE GIRL YOU
WANTED?

OR
THE FAME YOU
WANTED? OR THE
RECOGNITION
YOU WANTED?



YOU WOKE
UP ONE DAY AND
YOU WEREN'T THE
HERO OF THE
STORY.



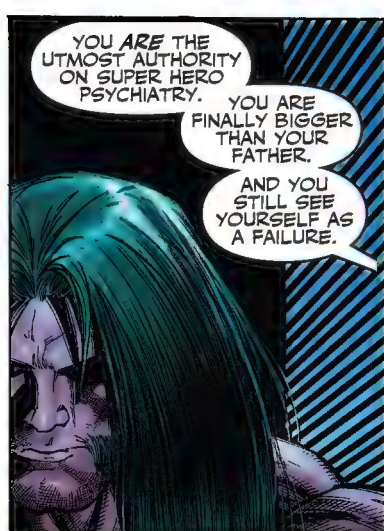
YOU LOOK
IN THE MIRROR LIKE
THOSE WOMEN WHO
WERE YOUR FATHER'S
PATIENTS.

WITH THEIR
DISTORTED SELF-
IMAGE.



YOU NEVER SAW WHAT
YOU HAD. THAT BEING
DOC SAMSON WASN'T
A BURDEN.

IT WAS A
PRIVILEGE.



YOU **ARE** THE
UTMOST AUTHORITY
ON SUPER HERO
PSYCHIATRY.

YOU ARE
FINALLY BIGGER
THAN YOUR
FATHER.

AND YOU
STILL SEE
YOURSELF AS
A FAILURE.



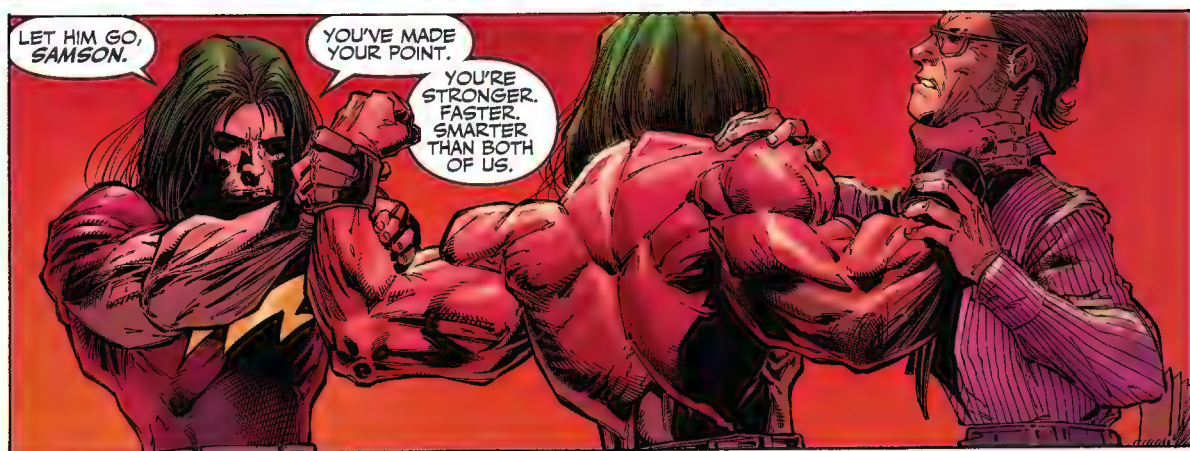
BECAUSE
YOU NEVER GOT
BETTY.

YOU
COULDN'T **BEAT**
BANNER.

YOU
COULDN'T BE
THE HULK.



ENOUGH.



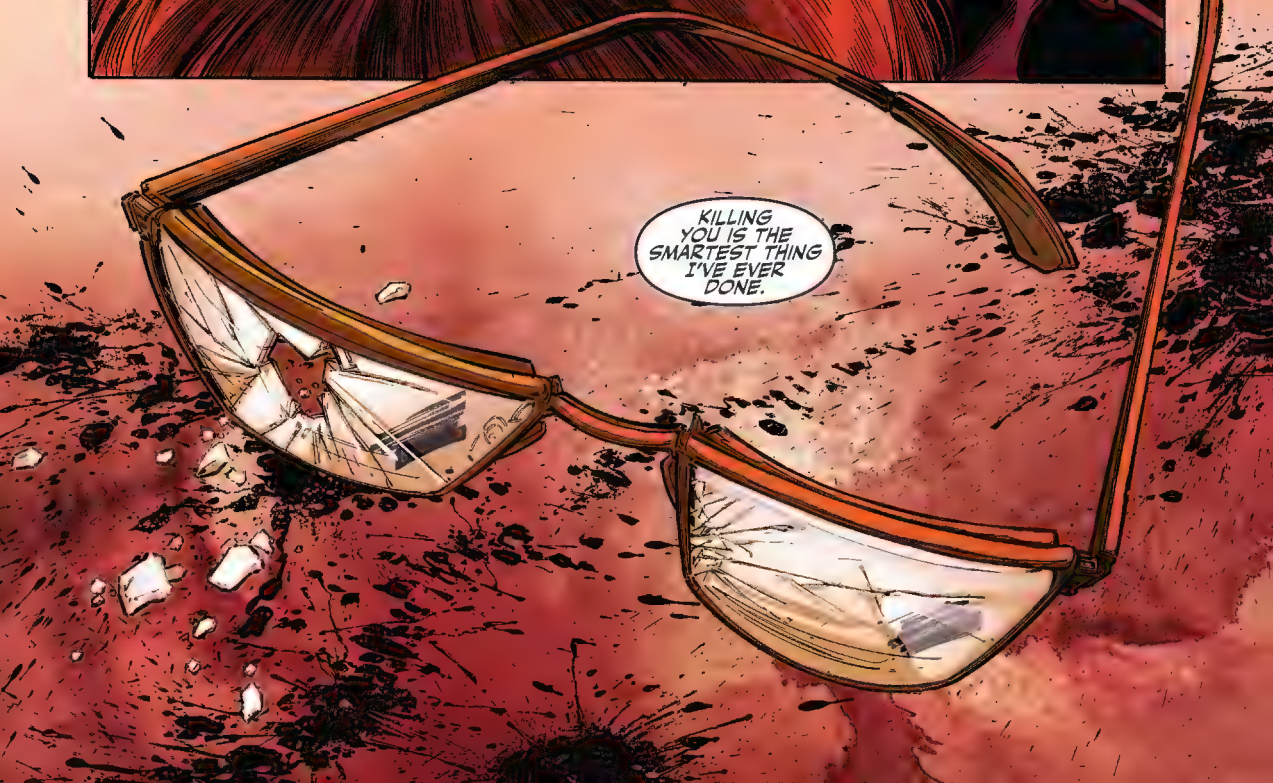


YOU
REALLY HELPED
ME OUT TODAY,
LEONARD.

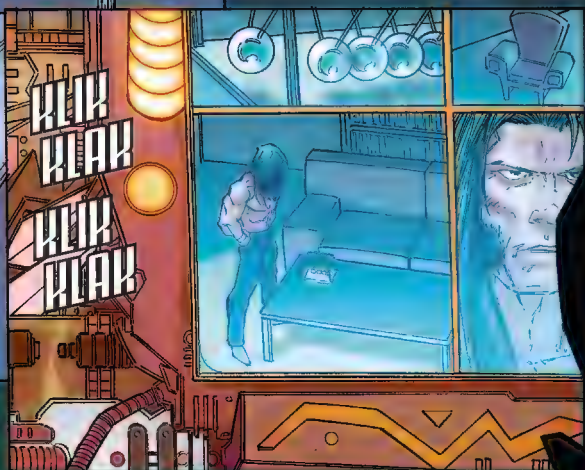
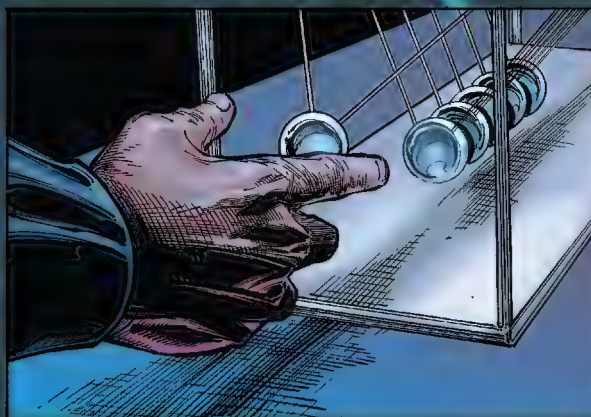


I REALIZE
NOW THAT BEING
SO DEPENDENT
ON MY INTELLECT
HAS ACTUALLY BEEN
HOLDING ME
BACK.

IT'S THE ONLY
EXPLANATION HOW
THE HULK COULD
DEFEAT ME.



KILLING
YOU IS THE
SMARTEST THING
I'VE EVER
DONE.



ROUND ★ SEVEN



THUNDERBOLT



FALL OF THE HULKS: GAMMA COVER ★ JOHN ROMITA, JR., KLAUS JANSON & DEAN WHITE

**THE REFLECTING POOL,
NEAR THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT.
DAWN.**

IT HAPPENED
QUICKLY.

THE MIDDLE
OF THE NIGHT.
WE'RE STILL
CANVASSING FOR
WITNESSES.

IT WAS DONE
IN PUBLIC THOUGH.
WHICH IS...*ODD*.
OR IMPORTANT.
OR BOTH.

HE MUST'VE
KNOWN HIS
ASSAILANT.
MAYBE THEY
WERE PLANNING
TO MEET.

WHY DO YOU
THINK THAT,
SAMSON?

THE RED HULK
ISN'T SOMEONE
JUST ANYBODY
COULD SNEAK
UP ON,
MS. MARVEL.

TOXICOLOGY ON THESE LEAVE-BEHINDS
SHOWS THE MORPHINE GOT INTO
THE BLOODSTREAM QUICKLY.

THE RED HULK'S
SENSES WERE DULLED
SLUGGISH.

VULNERABLE.



IT WASN'T JUST THAT
HE WAS GETTING HIT --

-- IT WAS THE
NUMBER OF TIMES THE
PUNCHES CONNECTED.
AS IF THE RED HULK
COULDN'T MOUNT
A DEFENSE.



THE AMBUSH
WAS PREPARED.
ORCHESTRATED.
TIMED OUT TO
THE SECOND.

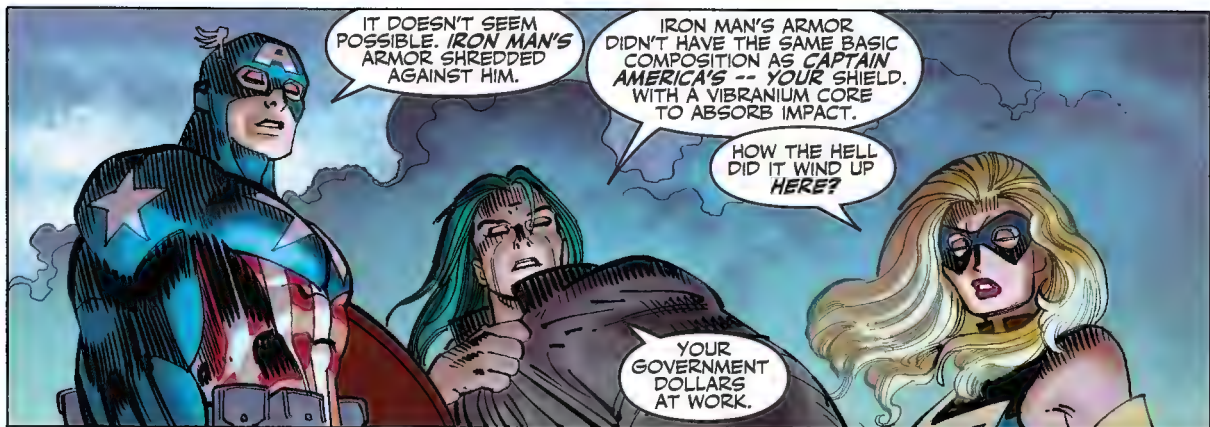


ANY CONFRONTATION WITH HIM
HAD TO BE. TOO MANY VARIABLES
COULD RESULT IN FAILURE.

A SURGICAL STRIKE
IN EVERY SENSE OF
THE WORD.



AND THE RED HULK
WENT DOWN.

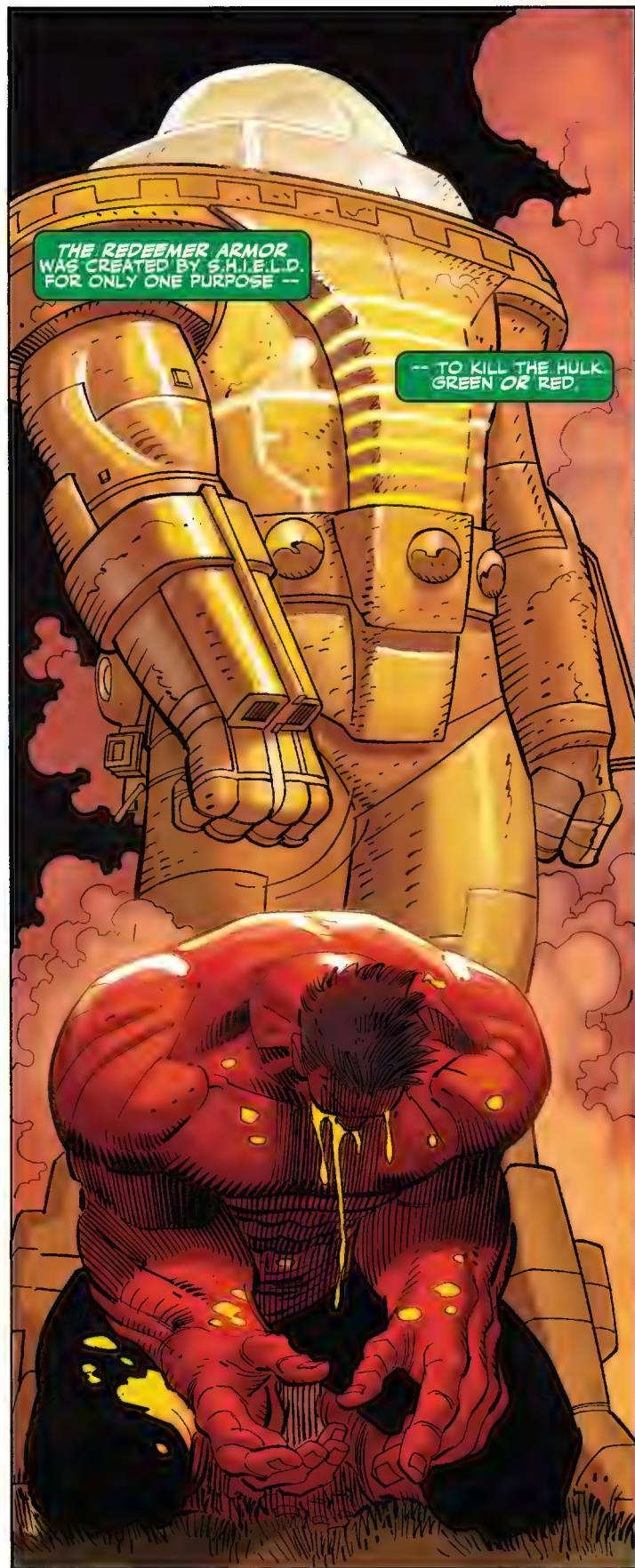


IT DOESN'T SEEM
POSSIBLE. IRON MAN'S
ARMOR SHREDDED
AGAINST HIM.

IRON MAN'S ARMOR
DIDN'T HAVE THE SAME BASIC
COMPOSITION AS CAPTAIN
AMERICA'S -- YOUR SHIELD.
WITH A VIBRANIUM CORE
TO ABSORB IMPACT.

HOW THE HELL
DID IT WIND UP
HERE?

YOUR
GOVERNMENT
DOLLARS
AT WORK.



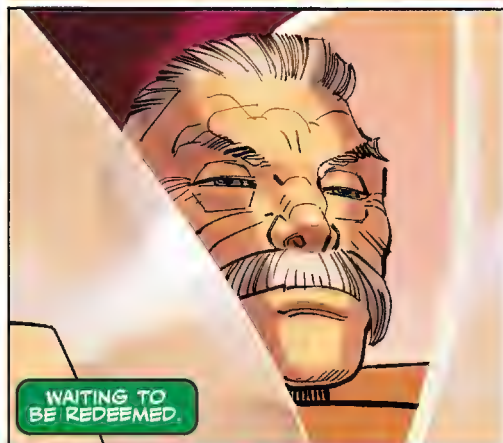
THE REDEEMER ARMOR
WAS CREATED BY S.H.I.E.L.D.
FOR ONLY ONE PURPOSE --

-- TO KILL THE HULK.
GREEN OR RED.



CLASSIFIED A FAILURE,
IT WAS MOTHBALLED.

IT'S MISSION UNREALIZED.



WAITING TO
BE REDEEMED.



BECAUSE IT WAS PERSONAL,
HE WAS ABLE TO GET IN CLOSE
TO THE RED HULK --

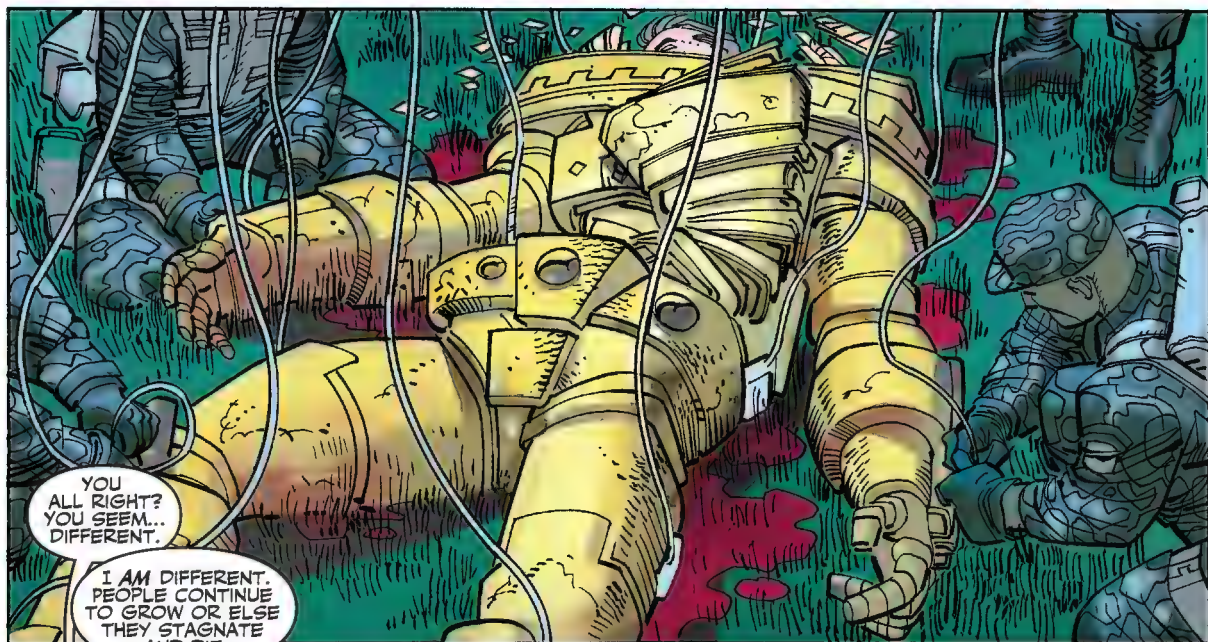


-- AND BECAUSE IT WAS PERSONAL
HE REVEALED HIMSELF TOO SOON...

...AND BY THEN IT
WAS TOO LATE.



GENERAL THADDEUS "THUNDERBOLT" ROSS
WAS KILLED IN ACTION LAST NIGHT.



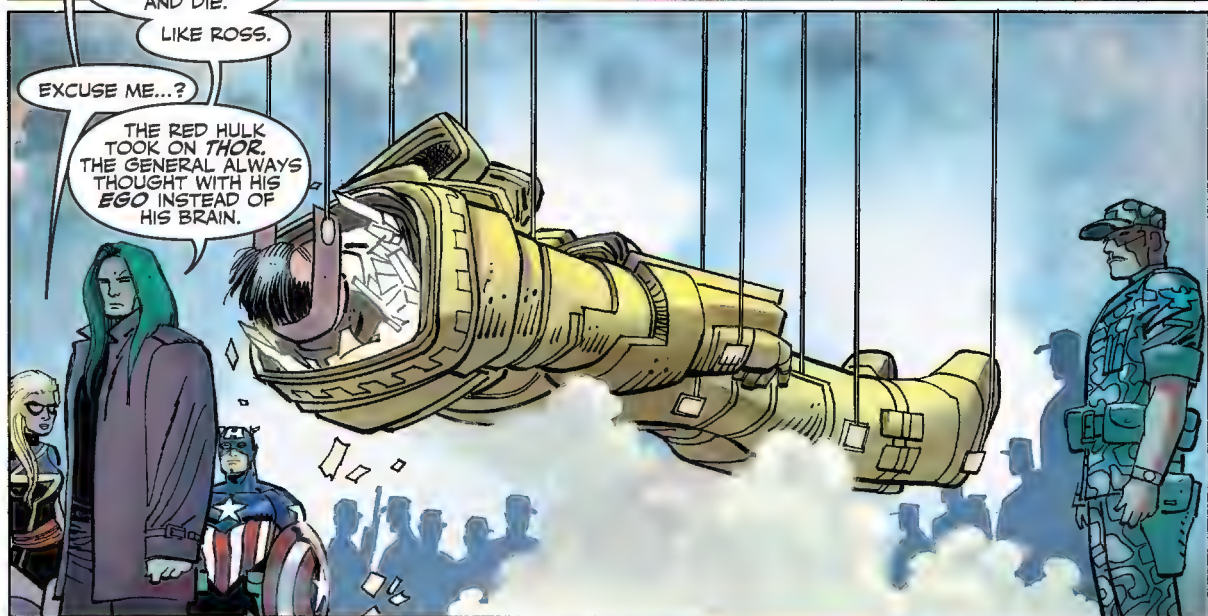
YOU
ALL RIGHT?
YOU SEEM...
DIFFERENT.

I AM DIFFERENT.
PEOPLE CONTINUE
TO GROW OR ELSE
THEY STAGNATE
AND DIE.

LIKE ROSS.

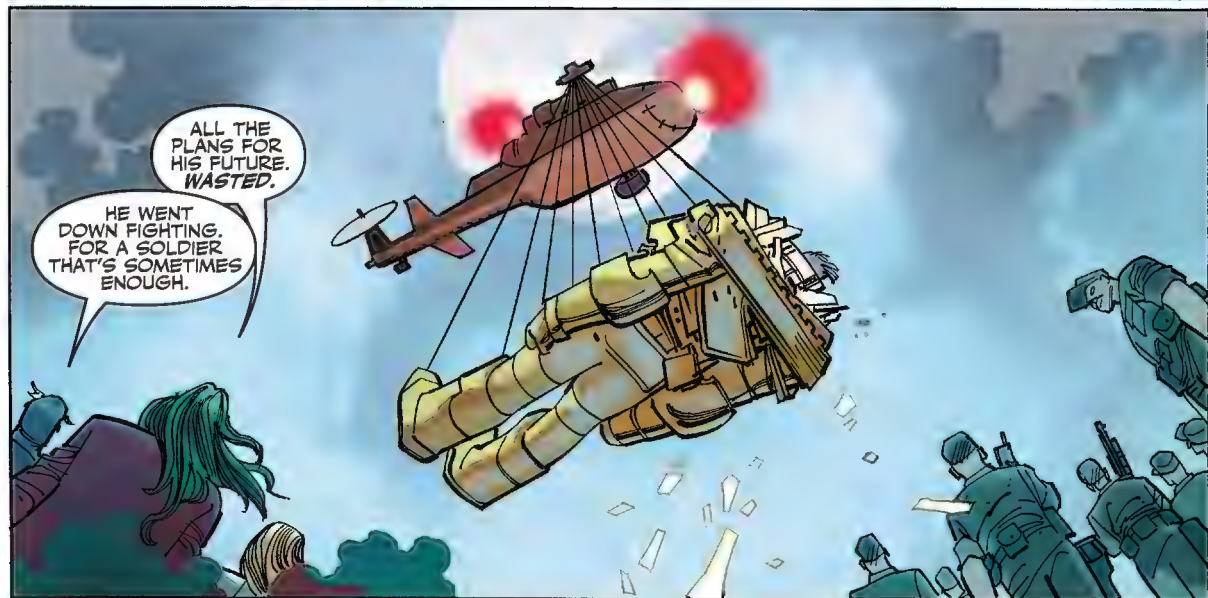
EXCUSE ME...?

THE RED HULK
TOOK ON *THOR*.
THE GENERAL ALWAYS
THOUGHT WITH HIS
EGO INSTEAD OF
HIS BRAIN.



ALL THE
PLANS FOR
HIS FUTURE.
WASTED.

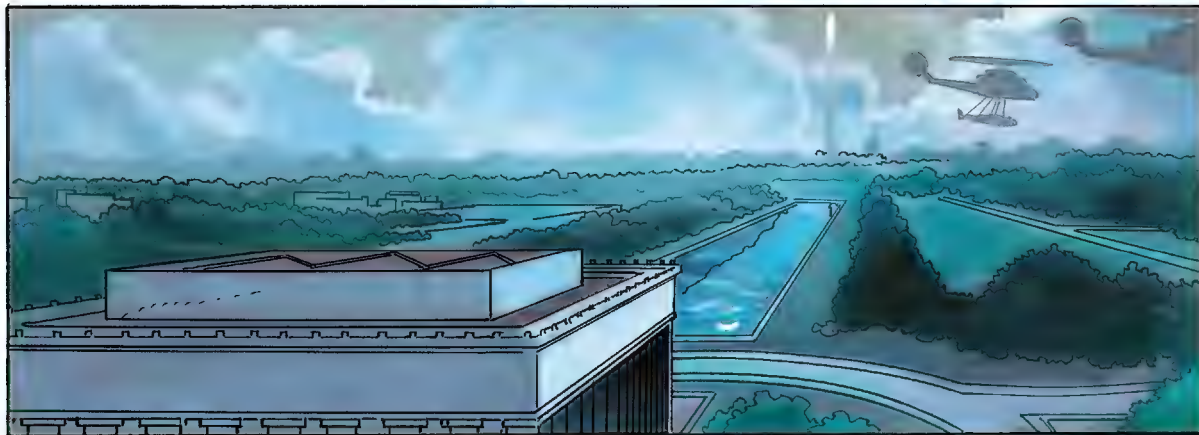
HE WENT
DOWN FIGHTING.
FOR A SOLDIER
THAT'S SOMETIMES
ENOUGH.

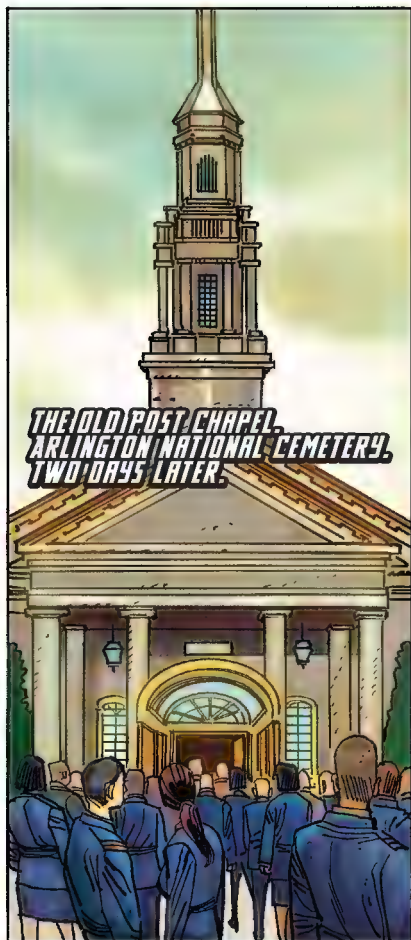


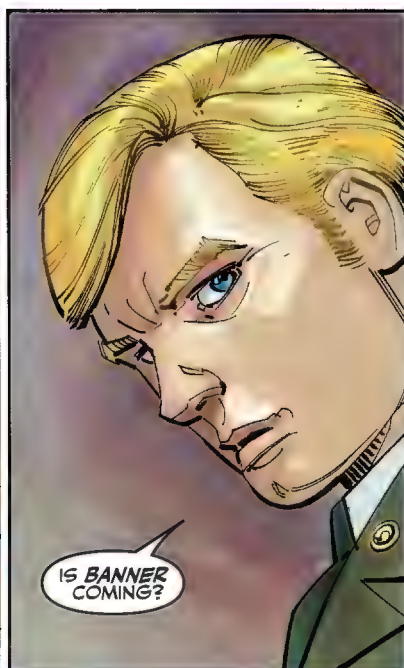


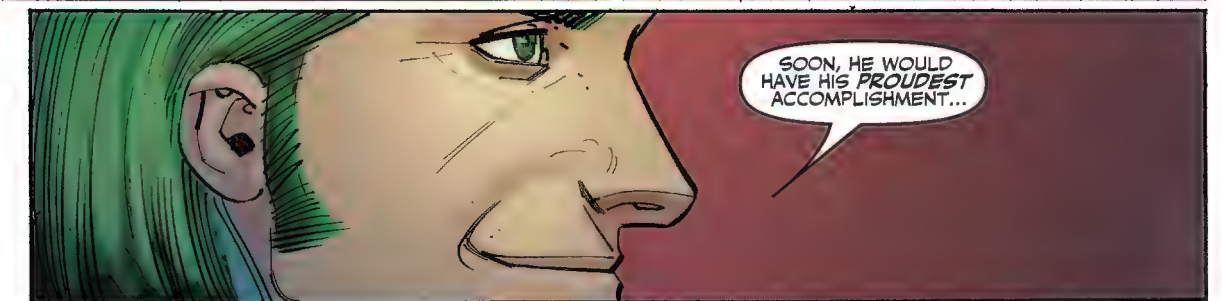
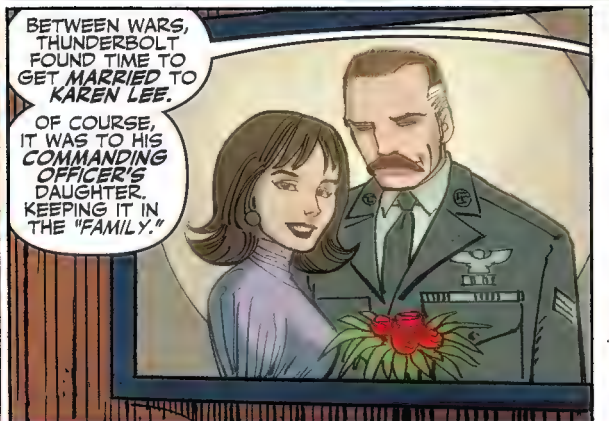
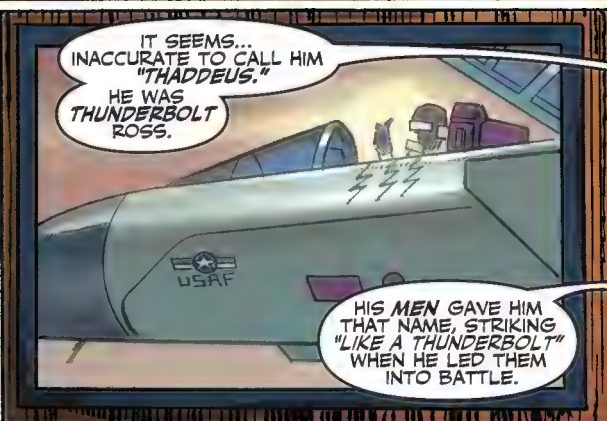
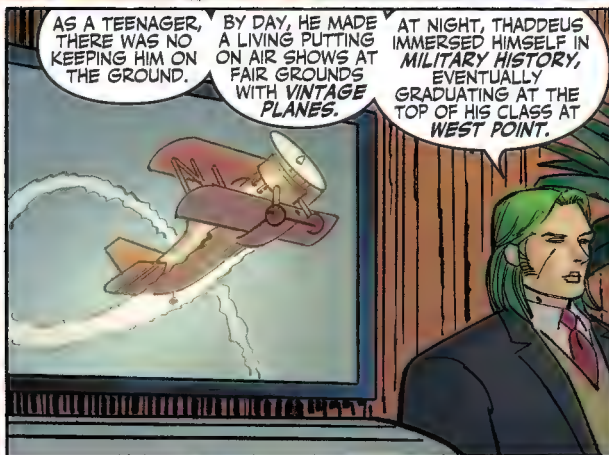
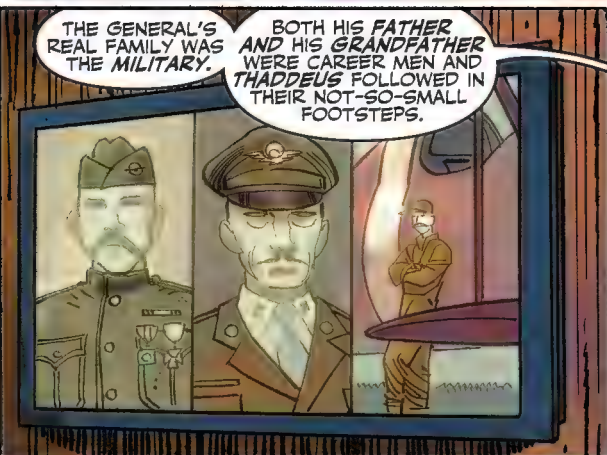
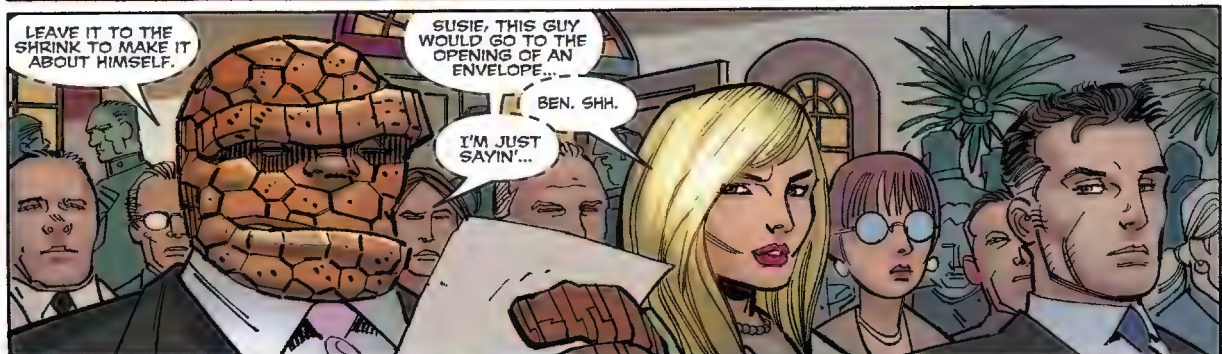
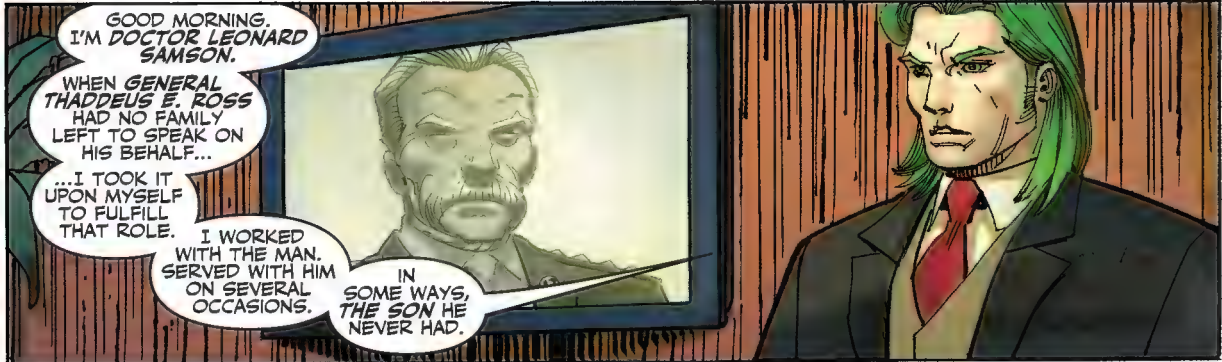
THE AIR FORCE WANTS TO HANDLE THIS FROM HERE ON.

DO THE RIGHT THING AND LET THEM.









**INTELLIGENCIA MONITORING STATION.
LOCATION CLASSIFIED.**

...HIS DAUGHTER
BETTY ROSS.

IT WOULD'VE
BEEN FUN TO BE
THERE.

YOU
KNOW HOW
IMPRACTICAL
THAT WOULD
BE.

THERE'S
ALREADY ENOUGH
SPECULATION THAT
YOU'RE ALLIED WITH
THE RED HULK.

LIKE
I CARE.

SAMSON
GOT TO GO.

THAT'S
AN ENTIRELY
DIFFERENT SET OF
CIRCUMSTANCES
AND YOU
KNOW IT.

I'VE BEEN
COOPED UP
HERE FOR
DAYS.

I DON'T LIKE
BEING TOLD
WHERE I CAN GO
AND WHERE
I CAN'T --

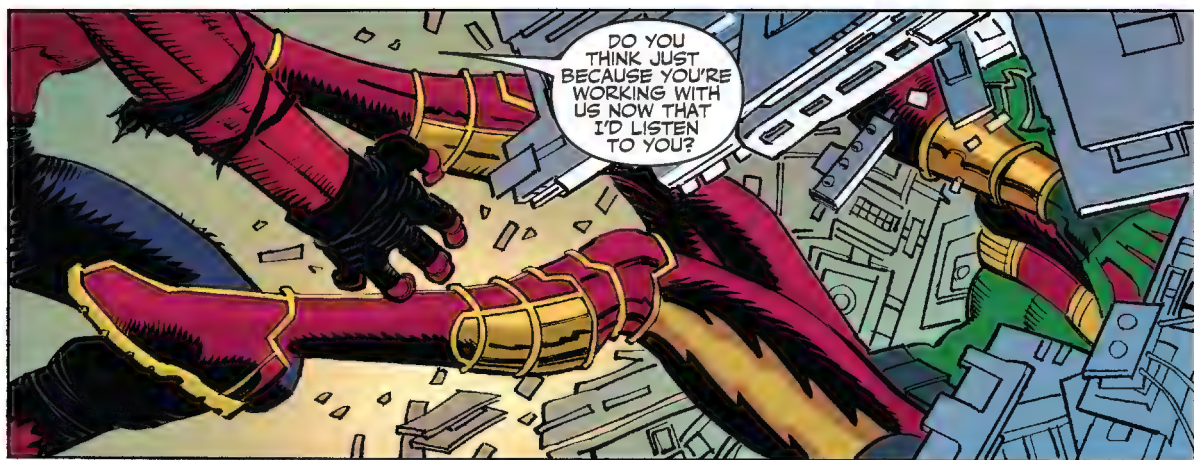
-- I'VE HAD
ENOUGH OF THAT
IN MY LIFE.

MAYBE
YOU SHOULD
LISTEN TO HIM
AND CALM
DOWN.

-- LITTLE
GIRL.



TAKE YOUR
GREEN HANDS
OFF OF ME!





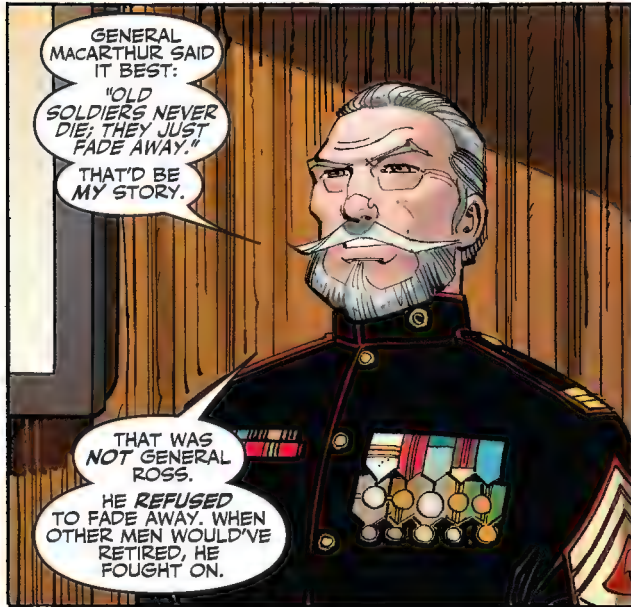
MOST OF YOU PROBABLY DON'T EVEN REMEMBER ME.
COLONEL SIMON SAVAGE, RETIRED.

I RAN A LITTLE OUTFIT CALLED THE "**LEATHERNECK RAIDERS**" BACK WHEN I WAS A LOWLY "**CAPTAIN.**"



NOT SURE WHERE THEY DUG THAT PHOTO UP.

HAVE TO SAY, I'M KINDA PROUD I STILL FIT INTO THIS UNIFORM.



GENERAL MACARTHUR SAID IT BEST:
"**OLD SOLDIERS NEVER DIE; THEY JUST FADE AWAY.**"
THAT'D BE MY STORY.

THAT WAS NOT GENERAL ROSS.
HE **REFUSED** TO FADE AWAY. WHEN OTHER MEN WOULD'VE RETIRED, HE FOUGHT ON.



I ONLY KNEW THE GENERAL BY REPUTATION.
THEY SAY HE WAS A HARD MAN TO WORK FOR. THAT HE ONLY ACCEPTED YOUR FINEST EFFORT.

TO SOME OF YOU, I'LL BET THAT SOUNDS OLD FASHIONED. OR EVEN UNFAIR.

BUT, I CAN TELL YOU FROM EXPERIENCE, IN THE HEAT OF BATTLE, **THAT'S** WHO YOU WANT FOR YOUR COMMANDING OFFICER.



WHEN I LOOK OUT AT THE YOUNG FACES OF THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO WANT TO SERVE THIS COUNTRY --
-- I HOPE THAT YOU'LL REMEMBER THIS DAY NOT WITH SADNESS --
-- BUT WITH INSPIRATION.

GOD BLESS AMERICA.



AND GOD BLESS GENERAL **THADDEUS THUNDERBOLT ROSS.**



OH, BROTHER.
I GOTTA FOLLOW
THAT?

GO ON,
BEN. YOU'LL
BE FINE.



I'M...AH...I'M SURE
YOU ALL HEARD THAT
BEFORE I WAS THIS
EVER-LOVIN' BLUE-EYED
THING --

-- I WAS JUST
A REGULAR JOE NAMED
BENJAMIN J. GRIMM.

I USED TO
BE A *PILOT*.
DAMN GOOD
ONE.

ANYBODY
WHO THOUGHT
HE WAS ANY GOOD
TALKED ABOUT
ROSS.

HE KINDA SET
THE BAR. WAY
UP IN THE BLUE
YONDER.



I WISH
I'D KNOWN HIM
BACK THEN.

BECAUSE
THE **ROSS**
I KNEW -- AND I
MEAN THIS WITH NO
DISRESPECT --

-- WAS
SORT OF A
NUTJOB.



SIT DOWN,
YA BUM!

TAKE IT
EASY. LEMME
EXPLAIN.

ROSS HAD A PASSION --
SOME GUYS MIGHT SAY
IT WAS ONE OF THEM
OBSESSIONS.

YOU ALL
KNOW WHAT
I'M TALKIN'
ABOUT.

THE
HULK



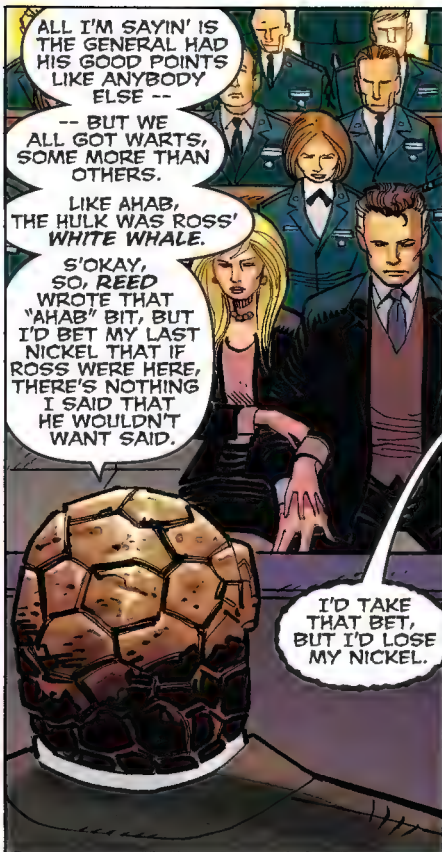


IT WAS **ROSS** WHO GOT US TO MIX IT UP WITH **THE HULK** IN THE FIRST PLACE --

-- AND ANY TIME AFTER THAT **GREENSKIN** SHOWED HIS UGLY MUG, **ROSS** WAS THERE TOO.

THE **HULK** GAVE HIM A **MISSION**. A PURPOSE.

THE **HULK** GAVE HIM A WAR. THAT'S ALL **ROSS** EVER REALLY NEEDED, RIGHT?



ALL I'M SAYIN' IS THE GENERAL HAD HIS GOOD POINTS LIKE ANYBODY ELSE --

-- BUT WE ALL GOT WARTS, SOME MORE THAN OTHERS.

LIKE **AHAB**, THE **HULK** WAS **ROSS'** **WHITE WHALE**.

S'OKAY, SO, **REED** WROTE THAT "AHAB" BIT, BUT I'D BET MY LAST NICKEL THAT IF **ROSS** WERE HERE, THERE'S NOTHING I SAID THAT HE WOULDN'T WANT SAID.

I'D TAKE THAT BET, BUT I'D LOSE MY NICKEL.



I'M NOT ON THE PROGRAM, BUT SINCE I KNEW THE MAN LONGER THAN ALMOST ANYBODY HERE --

-- THAT GIVES ME A FREE PASS TO CUT IN LINE.



WHAT'RE YA UP TO, UGLY?

CHILL, BEN. YOU GOT TO TELL YOUR STORY, NOW'S MY TURN.

SERIOUSLY, YA SURE YA KNOW WHAT YER DOIN', **RICK**?

PROBABLY NOT, BUT THERE'S ONLY ONE GUY I'D DO THIS FOR AND HE ASKED.

NOT...? AWWW...IT'S YER FUNERAL.

FUNNNNNNY.

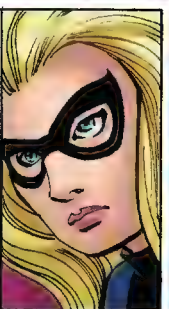


WHEN I SAID I KNEW **ROSS** LONGER THAN ALMOST ANYBODY HERE --

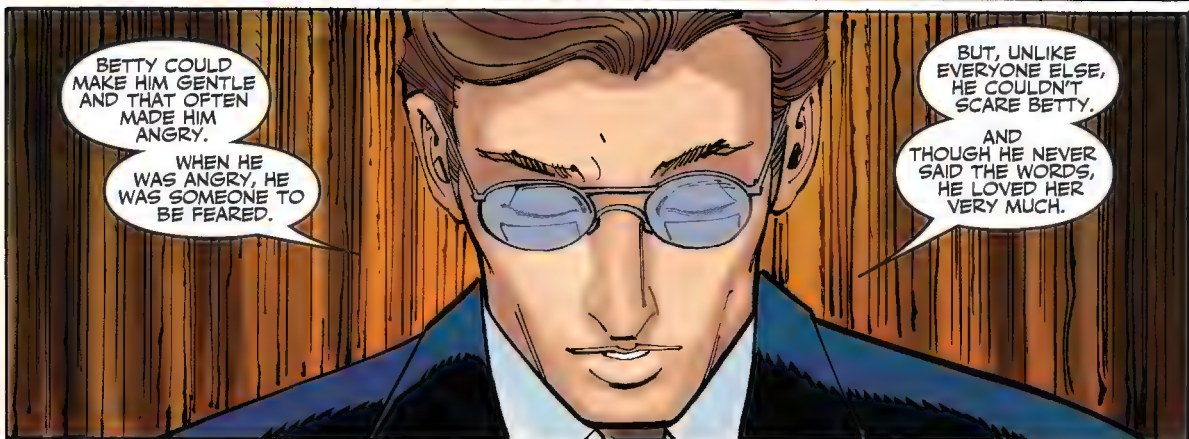
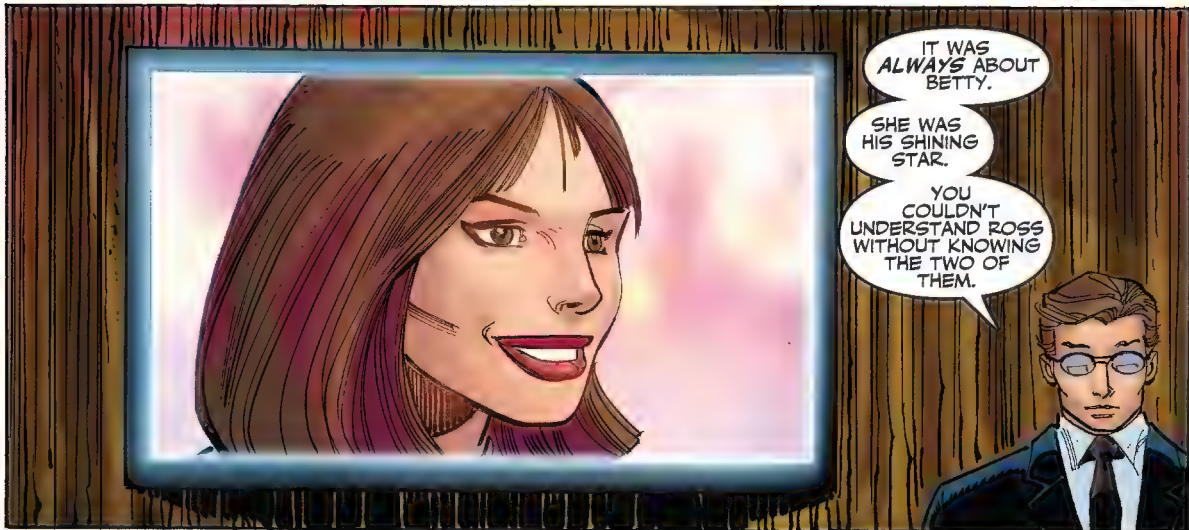
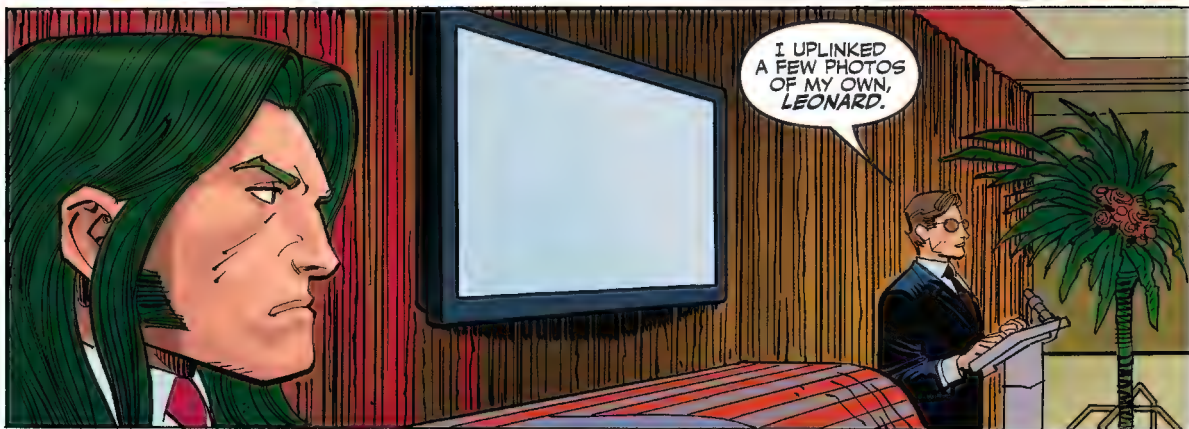
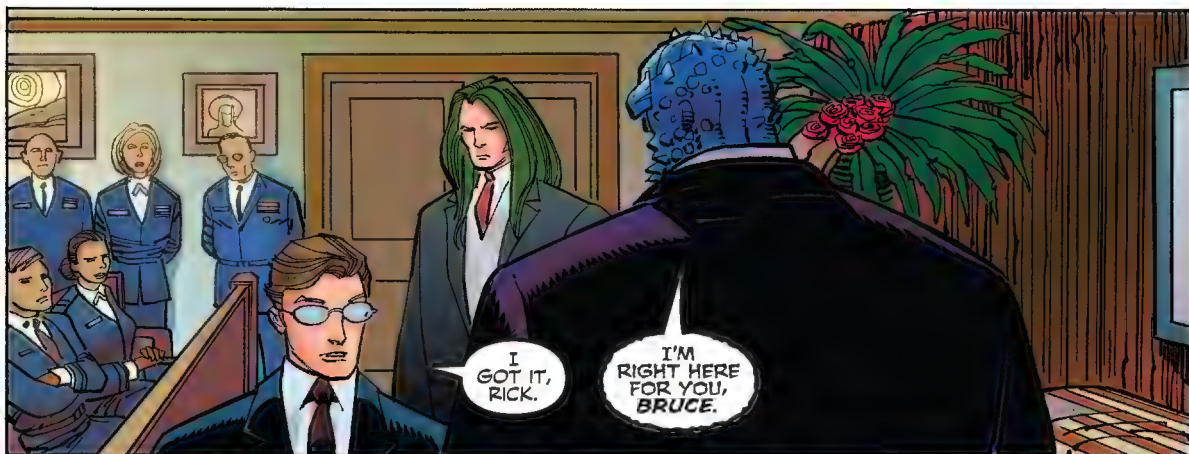
-- I MEANT **ALMOST**. THERE'S SOMEBODY WHO WAS PART OF **ROSS'** LIFE IN A BIGGER, MORE MEANINGFUL WAY THAN ALL OF US PUT TOGETHER.

FOR A LOT OF **WRONG** REASONS, HE WASN'T SURE IF HE SHOULD BE HERE.

FOR A LOT OF THE **RIGHT** ONES, HE **IS** AND HE DESERVES TO BE HEARD.



SAME OLD **RICK**...



HE WOULD'VE
DONE ANYTHING
FOR HER.

WHILE IT ATE
APART HIS INSIDES,
HE WATCHED HER
MARRY THE MAN
HE HATED.

THAT'S
ME IN THE
PHOTO.

LEONARD
SAID SOMETHING
ABOUT BEING THE
SON HE NEVER
HAD --

-- AND WHILE
I COULD LAY CLAIM
TO THAT, I THINK
WE KNOW WHO THAT
PERSON REALLY WAS.

MAJOR...EXCUSE ME...
COLONEL GLENN TALBOT
WAS MORE OF THE SON
HE HAD IN MIND.

OR SON-IN-LAW.
TALBOT MARRIED HIS
COMMANDING OFFICER'S
DAUGHTER--

--JUST LIKE
THE GENERAL
HAD.

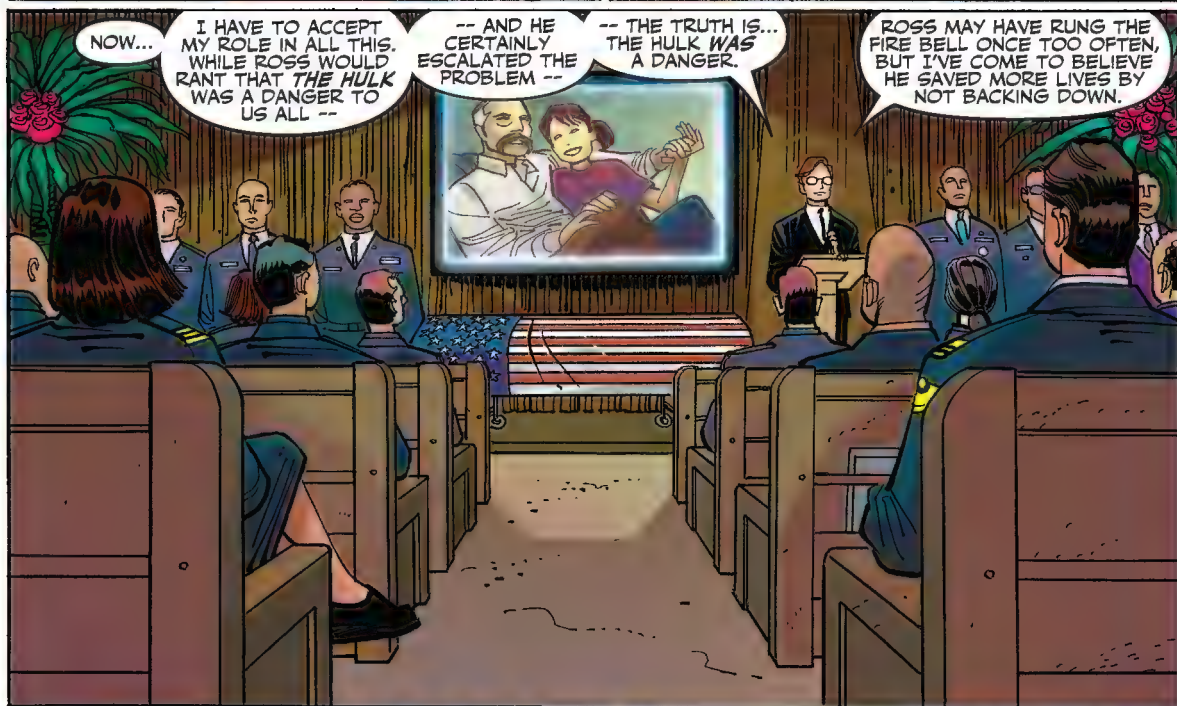
BETTY
AND TALBOT'S
MARRIAGE LASTED
ONLY A SHORT TIME
BEFORE IT ENDED
IN DIVORCE.

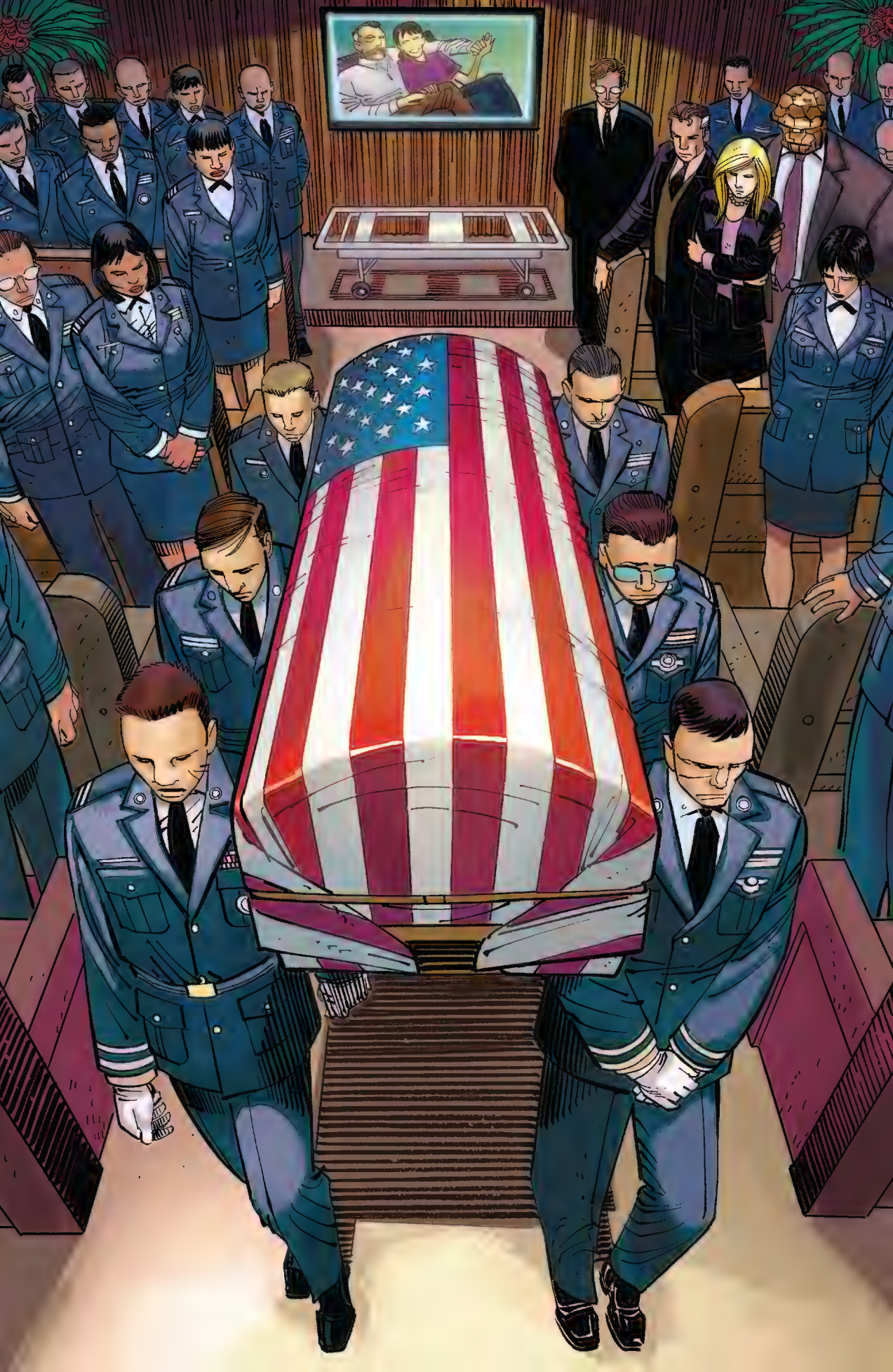
WHEN TALBOT
WENT M.I.A. IN RUSSIA,
I THINK ROSS WORRIED
MORE THAN BETTY.

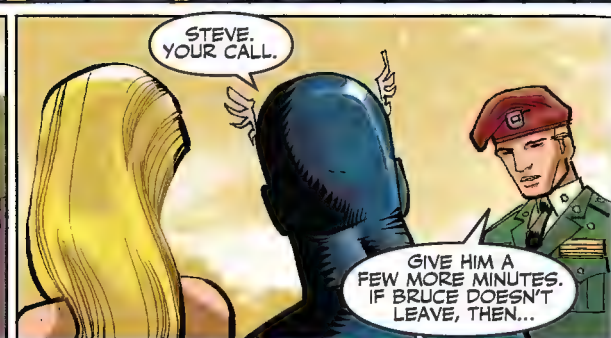
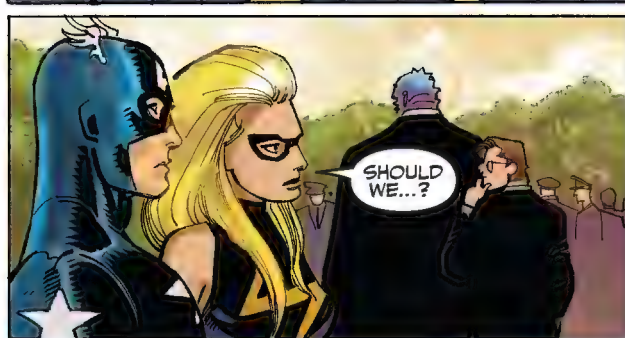
HRMM.

AND WHEN TALBOT
GAVE HIS LIFE FIGHTING
THE HULK -- I KNOW ROSS
COULDN'T HAVE BEEN
PROUDER.

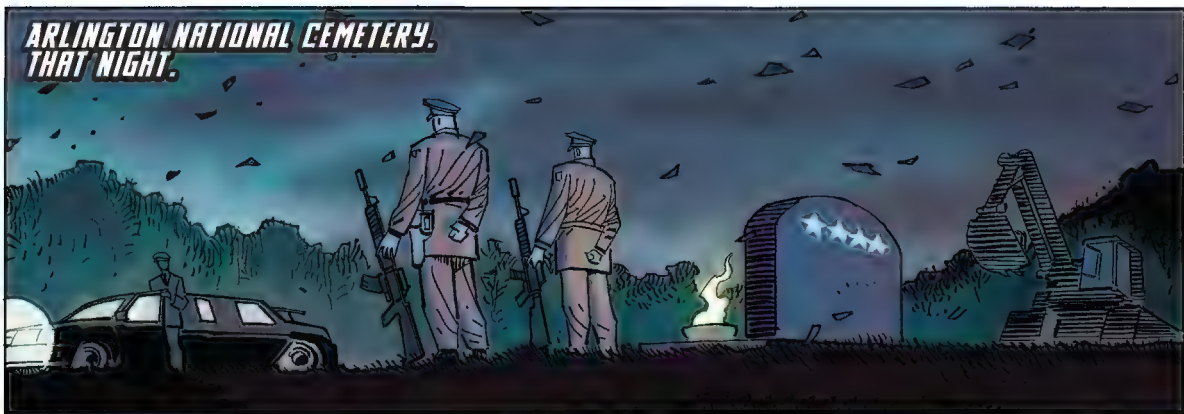
IT'S NO
WONDER ROSS
SUFFERED THE SAME
FATE. AGAINST
ANY HULK.

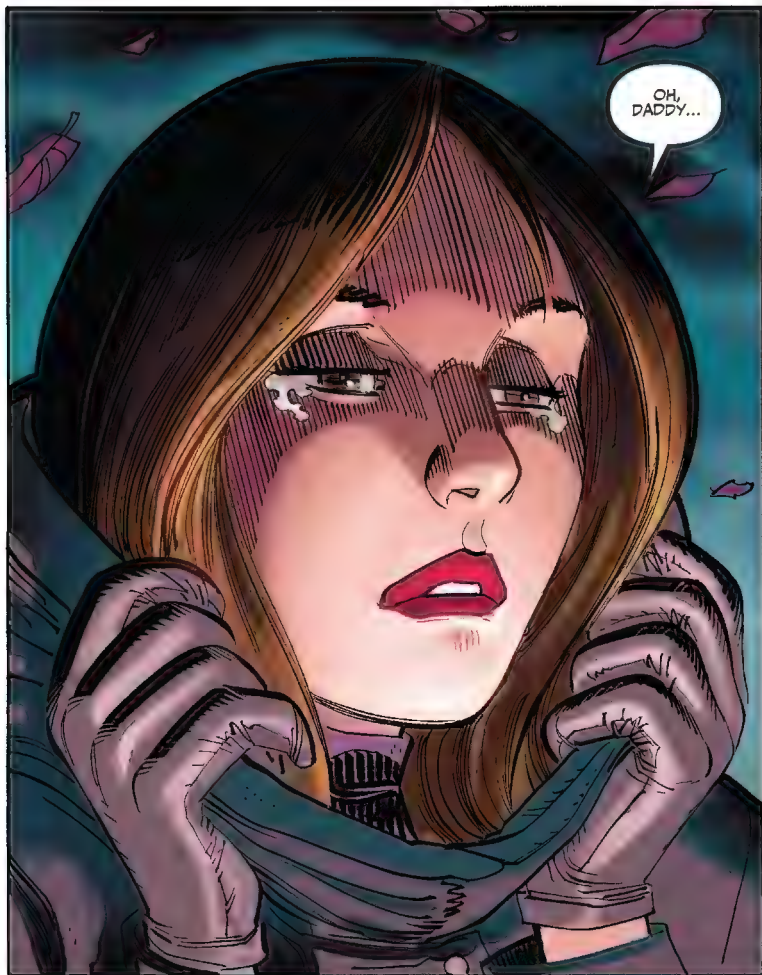






**ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY.
THAT NIGHT.**





OH,
DADDY...



MY FATHER KNEW
BETTER THAN TO GO
UP AGAINST THE HULK
ALL BY HIMSELF.



HOW DID
THIS HAPPEN,
GLENN?

WE'LL
FIND OUT THE
TRUTH, BETTY.
I PROMISE.



WE SHOULD
HEAD BACK
NOW.

IT ISN'T
SAFE...

INTELLIGENCIA WAR ROOM.

HE HAD AN
ACCOMPLICE.
MAYBE MORE
THAN ONE.

WHAT
MAKES YOU
SAY THAT?

BECAUSE I'VE
STUDIED THAT RED
MONSTER AND KILLING
ROSS DOESN'T FIT
HIS PROFILE.

THAT
"RED MONSTER"
WAS ONCE OUR
MOST TRUSTED
ALLY.

NOT
ANYMORE.

WHAT
ABOUT THAT
REDEEMER
ARMOR?

YOU HAD
A HAND IN
ITS CREATION,
STERNS.

YOU EVEN
GOT **ROSS** TO
WEAR IT BACK
THEN.

TREAD
LIGHTLY, **SAMSON**.
YOU'RE AMONG
THE SMARTEST MEN
ON EARTH...

YOU WOULDN'T
WANT TO SAY
SOMETHING...

...STUPID.

STOP.

THIS IS
WHAT HE
WANTS.

TO CREATE
DISTRUST
AMONG US.

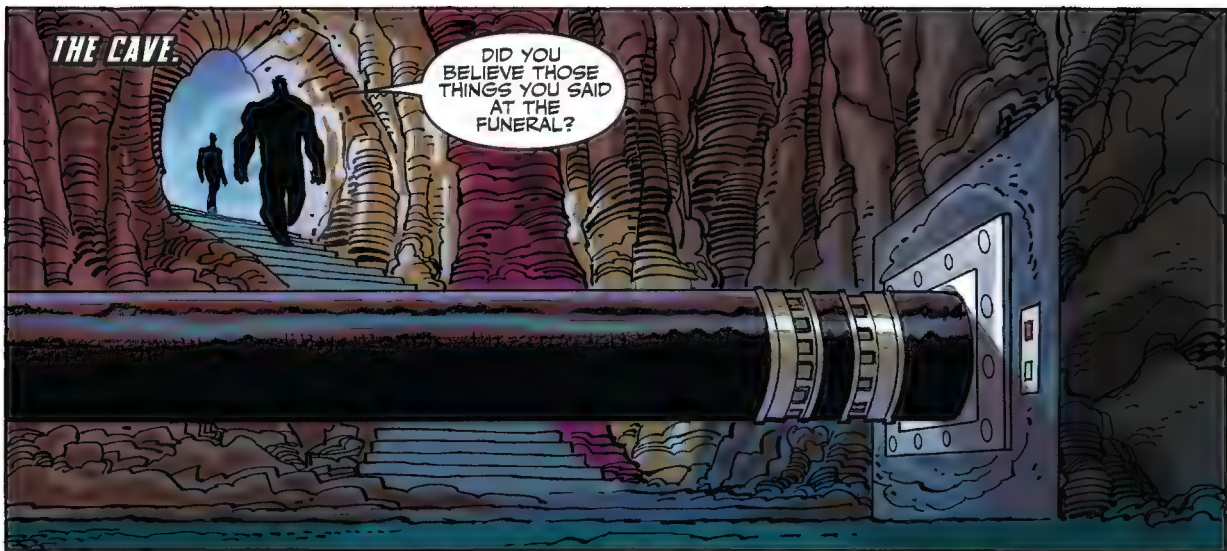
HE KNOWS
THE MOST INTIMATE
DETAILS OF OUR
PLANS --

-- AND
HOW **ROSS**, IN
PARTICULAR, WAS
CRUCIAL TO
THEM.

WITH
THE GENERAL'S
MURDER, HE'S
FIRED THE FIRST
SHOT...



NOW
WE SHOOT
BACK.



THE CAVE.

DID YOU BELIEVE THOSE THINGS YOU SAID AT THE FUNERAL?



I TOLD THE TRUTH.

THAT'S NOT ALWAYS THE SAME AS BELIEVING IN WHAT YOU SAY.

THAT'S A WISEASS ANSWER.



YOU CAME TO ME FOR HELP.

IT WAS THE SMARTEST THING TO DO.



IT WAS THE UNEXPECTED THING TO DO.



NO ONE WOULD BELIEVE THAT I'D WILLINGLY WORK WITH YOU.

WE'LL USE THAT IN OUR FAVOR.



ROUND ★ EIGHT



CONSPIRACY THEORY

THE BAXTER BUILDING: HEADQUARTERS OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR

RIGHT NOW, IN ALL THESE
LITTLE NEW YORK CITY
BUILDINGS, WITH THEIR
CURTAINED WINDOWS,

THOUSANDS COULDN'T
WANT TO GO TO BED.

REED...

TWO
MORE MINUTES,
SUE.

IT WAS
"TWO MORE MINUTES"
TWO HOURS AGO...

I KNOW...
HOWEVER, SINCE THE
DEATH OF GENERAL ROSS,
ANYTHING THAT MIGHT
HELP US IN DEALING WITH
THE RED HULK --

-- DIDN'T THAT
DAMN VIDEO CARRY
IN A TROJAN HORSE
VIRUS THAT BROUGHT
DOWN THIS BUILDING'S
SECURITY?

HMMM...?
WHAT? I'VE
CORRECTED
THAT.

WELL...

I HAVE
A THEORY
SCREEEE
SCATCH
SCREEEE
THINK YOU SCATCH
SAMSON
SKKEEEEEE

BE
CAREFUL...
HRRUMPH.

WHERE NIGHT OWLS
START TO WORK.

SATURDAY
NIGHT IN THE BIG
CITY AND WHERE
IS THIS TOWN'S
MOST ELIGIBLE
BACHELOR?

WORKIN' ON
THE VEHICLE THAT'S
GONNA MAKE NEXT
SATURDAY A NIGHT TO
REMEMBER...

SSNNNORRRR
CHILI CHEESE FRIES...
RRRRR

AND OTHERS DRIFT
OFF TO SLEEP.



ENGAGING 3-D
HOLOGRAPHIC IMAGERY.

I HAVE
A THEORY
=SKREEEE=
=SCRATCH=

=SKREEEE=
THINK YOU
=SCRATCH=
SAMSON
=SKREEEE=

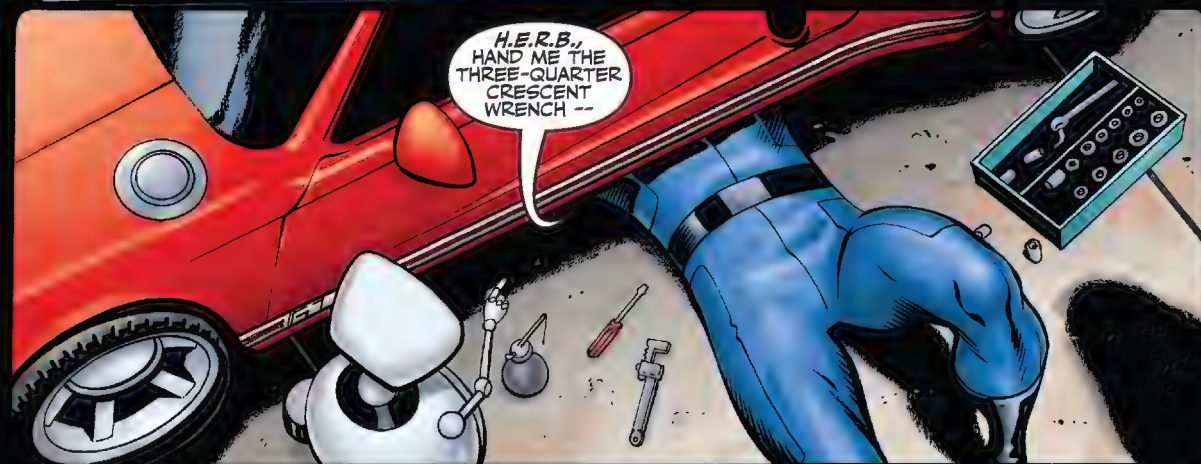
BRUCE...
WHAT ARE YOU
HIDING? WHY CAN'T
I BRING MYSELF
TO TRUST YOU?



ONE
NIGHT.

ONE NIGHT
A MONTH THE
KIDS ARE OVER
AT A FRIEND'S
HOUSE...

...AND YOU'D
THINK THAT MAN
WOULD BE ABLE
TO TEAR HIMSELF
AWAY FROM
THE LAB...

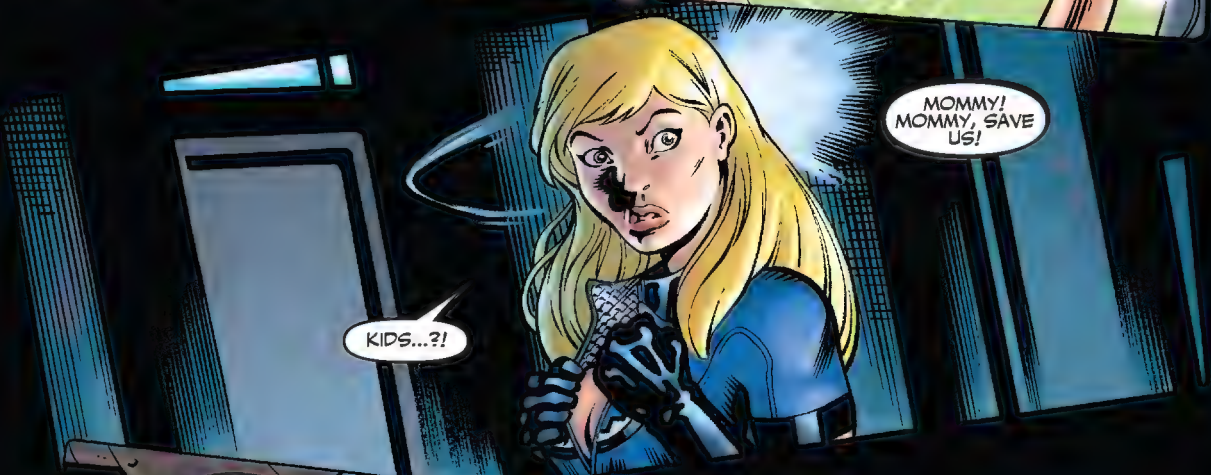


H.E.R.B.,
HAND ME THE
THREE-QUARTER
CRESCENT
WRENCH --



MMMMUSTARD...

A CONSPIRACY
IS HATCHING.



M.O.D.O.K. LEADER.
WIZARD. THINKER.
GHOST.

THEY REFER TO
THEMSELVES AS
THE INTELLIGENCIA.

FIVE MEN.
DANGEROUS.
BRILLIANT. IN
SOME WAYS...
MORE MONSTERS
THAN MEN.
JOINED TOGETHER
TO CHANGE
THE WORLD.

DESPITE THE
OUTCOME OF OUR
RECENT ENCOUNTERS,
REED, I THINK EVEN
YOU WILL APPRECIATE
THE THOUGHT THAT'S
GONE INTO THIS
EVENING.

BEGINNING
WITH MY REGROUPING
AND RETOOLING OF
THE FRIGHTFUL FOUR
AS THE BLUNT
INSTRUMENT TO MEET
MY NEEDS.

GIVE INTO
THE SOUNDS OF
YOUR WORST FEARS,
MRS. RICHARDS...
YOUR CHILDREN
IN HARM'S
WAY...

HELP US,
MOMMY!
HELP US!
HELP!

KLAW.

INDIVIDUALLY THEY'VE
BEEN DEFEATED.
HUMILIATED. BUT WORSE
THAN ALL THAT...

...THEY ARE THOUGHT OF
AS INCONSEQUENTIAL BY
THEIR SO-CALLED PEERS.
DOCTOR DOOM.
NORMAN OSBORN.

EVEN BY THE
"HEROES."

YOU MIGHT
AS WELL STOP
STRUGGLING,
GRIMM.

THE CHEMICAL
BOND PULLS THE
MOLECULES
TIGHTER THE
MORE YOU
MOVE.

UNTIL
YOU LITERALLY
STRANGLE
YOURSELF...

SURRRKLE

I DON'T
KNOW WHO
"HERBIE"
IS --
-- MY NAME'S
"LYRA."

WHATEVER.
THAT CAR
COST OVER
TWO HUNDRED
GRAND!

WHILE THIS COUNTRY
IS RIPPED APART
BY A CIVIL WAR.
AN ASSASSINATION.
DARK AVENGERS...

THE INTELLIGENCIA
WILL SWOOP IN AND TAKE
IT FROM THEM ALL.

WIZARD...?

STEP ONE.
ELIMINATE THE
OPPOSITION.

THE ECT I
ADMINISTERED TO YOU
HAS IGNITED A WAVE OF
ELECTRICALLY INDUCED
SEIZURES.

THINK OF
IT AS SHOCK
THERAPY.

ALTHOUGH
"THINKING" OF
ANYTHING RIGHT
NOW WILL PROVE
CHALLENGING.



DISTURBING,
ISN'T IT? HOW
SOUND JUST RIPS
YOU...PHYSICALLY...
EMOTIONALLY...?

HELP US,
MOMMY!
HELP
US!

HELP!



COME INTO THE
BAXTER BUILDING
UNINVITED IS ONE
THING --

-- WRECK
A MAN'S CAR AND
YOU'RE ASKING FOR
TROUBLE.



TAKE "THE EIGHT
SMARTEST MEN"
OFF THE TABLE
RIGHT AWAY.

WARNING. SECURITY
BREACH AT ENTRANCE
OF NEGATIVE ZONE.

WE BOTH KNOW
THE CONSEQUENCES
OF OPENING THIS
DOOR -- THE **NEGATIVE
ION PARTICLES**
WILL ENVELOP THIS
BUILDING, THIS
CITY --

-- AND THE
GREAT PAINFUL
IRONY IS THAT
I DIDN'T DO
IT, REED.

YOU
DID.

THE BANNER
VIDEO? YOU
COULDN'T KEEP
YOURSELF FROM
WATCHING
IT OVER AND
OVER.

WITH EACH
VIEWING YOU
WERE **IMBEDDING**
A SECOND, MORE
SPECIFIC
VIRUS.

ONE THAT
RECALIBRATED
THIS TIME
LOCK.

ESSENTIALLY,
YOU'VE TAUGHT
THE DOOR TO
REPEATEDLY
UNLOCK
ITSELF.

INSIDIOUS,
YES.
DETECTABLE,
NO.

...DON'T...



PUTTING
MY CHILDREN IN
JEOPARDY --

-- REAL OR
IMAGINED --

-- WAS
A VERY STUPID
THING TO DO.



THAT WAS
A MISTAKE.

UM...
NOT FROM
WHERE I'M
STANDING.



BWPHAK

TRAPSTER.
I'M GONNA
MURDERLIZE
YOU.

THINKERS LIKE THEMSELVES.
MINDS WHO MIGHT ANTICIPATE
THEIR NEXT MOVE AND STOP THEM.
AS THEY HAVE IN THE PAST.

WITH
YOUR BRAIN IN
A STATE OF
DISARRAY --

-- IT'S
ONLY LOGICAL
YOU WOULD
LOSE CONTROL
OF YOUR BODILY
FUNCTIONS.

YES,
THAT'S ONE OF MY
ANTI-GRAVITATIONAL
DISCS COMBINED WITH
THE TRAPSTER'S
ADHESIVE...

AMBERGH

HOW'S
THAT FEEL,
KLAW?

LISTENING
TO THE SOUND
OF YOUR OWN
VOICE SCREAMING
IN AGONY?

THEY
TOLD ME YOU
HAD A WEAKNESS
FOR WOMEN.

AND THAT'S
A BAD THING...
WHYYYYYYYGGHH!

WHAT
IN BLUE
BLAZES
IS GOIN'
ON!?

YOUR BEDROOM
FLOOR HAS AN AIR
CONDUIT THAT LEADS
RIGHT TO THE
NEGATIVE ZONE
PORTAL.

MAKING
YOUR QUARTERS...
THE PERFECT
TRAP.

BEGINNING WITH
REED RICHARDS.

I IMAGINE
THE ONLY THING
WORSE THAN
RECOGNIZING
YOUR OWN
DILEMMA --

-- IS NOT
BEING ABLE
TO DO A THING
ABOUT IT.

TOO BAD,
MRS. RICHARDS.
YOU TOOK YOUR
ANGER OUT ON
NOTHING MORE
THAN AN ECHO
OF MYSELF.

THIS IS ALL
THERE IS TO
WEAR AROUND
HERE?

REED! SUE!
JOHNNY!

AIN'T THERE
ANYBODY OUT
THERE TO
HELP?!

GOT
YOU.

I SHOULD KNOW.
I WAS ALLIED WITH
THE INTELLIGENCE.
DREW UP THE BATTLE
PLAN. TAUGHT THEM
THE ART OF WAR.

I COULD'VE HANDED
THEM THE GREATEST
VICTORY OF THEIR LIVES.

OH,
YOU GOTTA
BE KIDDIN'
ME.

**INTELLIGENCIA
WAR ROOM
LOCATION CLASSIFIED.**

INSTEAD OF LEADING
THE CHARGE,
I WAS BETRAYED
AND CAST OUT.

WHAT IS
HE DOING
THERE?

CALM DOWN,
SAMSON.

GIVEN WHAT
HE KNOWS, IT COMES
AS NO SURPRISE THAT
OUR FORMER ALLY
WOULD ATTEMPT
TO INTERFERE.

IT'S HIS
WAY.

HE'LL BE
LIMITED TO BEING
REACTIVE, WHILE WE
MAINTAIN THE UPPER
HAND OF BEING
PROACTIVE.

WE SHOULD
KILL HIM NOW AND
BE DONE WITH IT,
M.O.D.O.K.

AFTER
THE ROSS
FIASCO --

-- I'LL
KILL HIM
MYSELF.

EVEN IF MR. BIG HEAD WOULD LET YOU,
LEONARD, YOU DON'T HAVE WHAT IT
TAKES TO TAKE DOWN RED.

SHURK



YOU'RE WELCOME TO GIVE ME YOUR BEST SHOT.

LEONARD IS DEAD.

SERIOUSLY, YOU SHOULD CHECK OUT A MIRROR.

THERE'S A CRAZY MAN IN THERE WHO WANTS TO HAVE A WORD WITH YOU.

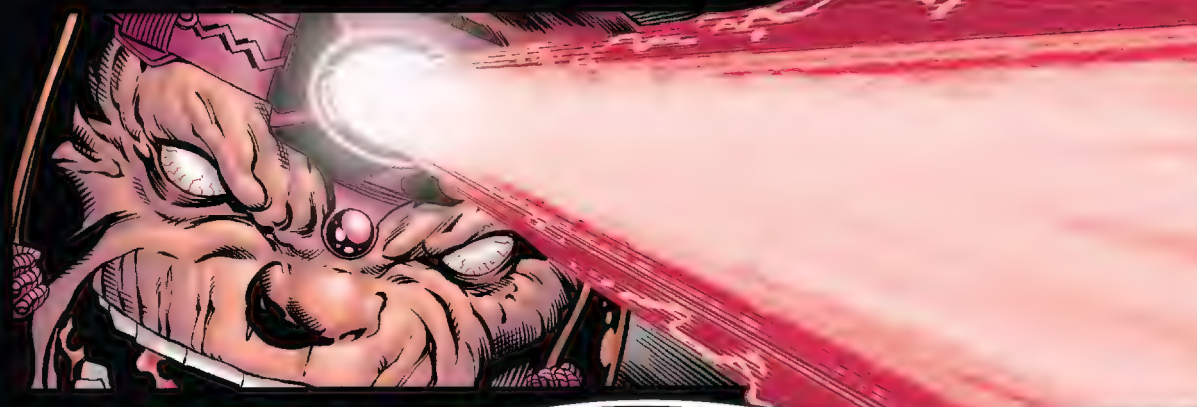


ENOUGH.

YOUR LACK
OF DISCIPLINE WILL
NO LONGER BE
TOLERATED.



I WARNED
YOU BEFORE NOT
TO KEEP DOING
THAT TO ME.



SHE NEVER
WAS THE MOST
STABLE PERSON ON
THE PLANET.

IF THIS
CONTINUES...

HER ROLE
IN THIS IS TOO
IMPORTANT TO MAKE
ANY SUBSTANTIVE
CHANGES.

FOR NOW,
SHE'LL NEED
TO BE KEPT ON
A SHORTER
LEASH...



IT'S
CLOBBERIN'
TIME!



BUT...THE PLAN. THE PLAN
IS SOUND. IT'S SO GOOD THEY
WON'T DIVERGE FROM IT.

INSTEAD, THEY'LL PROCEED
ACCORDINGLY, ONLY WITHOUT
MY PARTICIPATION.

GRIMM! WE'VE
GOT TO SEAL OFF
THE NEGATIVE ZONE OR
THIS ENTIRE BUILDING
WILL BE SUCKED
INSIDE --

-- YA THINK
I DON'T KNOW
THAT? I WAS
HERE THE
LAST TIME IT
HAPPENED.

YA
PROBABLY
OPENED IT
YERSELF.

YOU'VE
GOT NO IDEA
WHAT'S REALLY
GOING ON.

ALL OF
THIS IS JUST A
DISTRACTION.

YEAH, WELL,
NOTHING'S GONNA
DISTRACT ME FROM
TEARING OFF
YER HEAD.

I'VE BEEN
WANTIN' A PIECE
OF YOU EVER SINCE
I FIRST HEARD
THERE WUZ A
RED HULK.

ME AND
OL' GREENSKIN
DONE THIS DANCE
MORE TIMES
THAN I CAN
COUNT.

BUT, YOU.
YOU BEEN OUT
THERE MAKIN'
A NAME FOR
YERSELF.

NOW
IT'S TIME YA
GOT SOME REAL
COMPETITION.

OUT OF ARROGANCE, THEY'LL
START TO FEEL SECURE.

I COULD
SNAP YOUR
NECK.

OR
BREAK YOUR
BACK.

BUT,
THAT'S
NOT MY
GOAL.

WE'VE GOT
ONE CHANCE
TO STOP IT
HERE.

I'VE GOT TO
ABSORB ENOUGH
OF THIS ENERGY
THAT YOU CAN GET
TO THE VAULT
DOOR --

-- SO
YA CAN TOSS
ME IN? YA THINK
I WAS BORN
YESTERDAY?

YOU'VE
ALREADY LOST
THE BATTLE WITH
THE **FRIGHTFUL**
FOUR.

THEY'VE
GOT WHAT THEY
CAME FOR.

UNLESS YOU
WORK WITH ME,
YOUR FRIENDS --
YOUR FAMILY --
ARE GOING
TO DIE.

WHY SHOULD
I BELIEVE YOU? YOU
AIN'T EXACTLY GOT
A **TRUSTWORTHY**
TRACK RECORD.

LOOK
WHAT'S
HAPPENING
HERE --

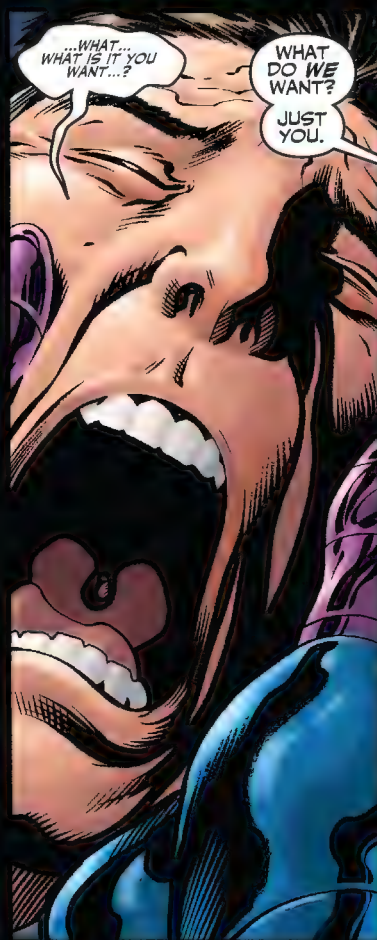
-- WHAT
CHOICE'VE
YOU GOT?

THE INTELLIGENCIA THINK I'LL COME AFTER THEM BECAUSE THEY SEE ME AS PETTY AND VENGEFUL, WHICH IS HOW THEY SHOULD SEE THEMSELVES.

ALMOST THERE.

DO YOU KNOW WHO'S INSIDE WITH THEM? THE RED HULK?

I'M AWARE. HE'LL KEEP THEM PREOCCUPIED.



WHAT... WHAT IS IT YOU WANT...?

WHAT DO WE WANT?

JUST YOU.

ONE OF EIGHT.

I WOULD'VE BEEN SATISFIED WITH KILLING THE LOT OF YOU --

-- BUT ONCE I HEARD WHAT THEY HAVE PLANNED...



THE TORCH IS DOWN. TIME TO GO.

AND AREN'T YOU DRESSED SMARTLY FOR THE OCCASION...

I HAD A PROBLEM. THIS WAS THE SOLUTION.

I HAD MY DOUBTS ABOUT YOU, LYRA. OFFERING YOU THUNDRA'S PLACE ON MY TEAM --

-- THEN THIS'LL BE THE FIRST OF MANY TIMES I'LL PROVE TO YOU HOW MUCH BETTER OFF WE ARE WITHOUT MY MOTHER BEING HERE...



IF YOU LET
GO OF ME, I SWEAR
I'LL COME BACK IN
ANOTHER LIFE AS AN
ITCH YOU CAN'T
SCRATCH.

JUST
DO THE JOB.
AND BE QUICK
ABOUT IT.

I DON'T
KNOW ABOUT THIS
"NEGATIVE ENERGY."
NEVER ABSORBED
ANYTHING LIKE IT.



IF
EVER THERE
WERE A TIME
FOR A --

"I'VE
GOT A BAAAAAD
FEELIN' ABOUT
THIS!"

-- IT'D
BE RIGHT
ABOUT
NOW.

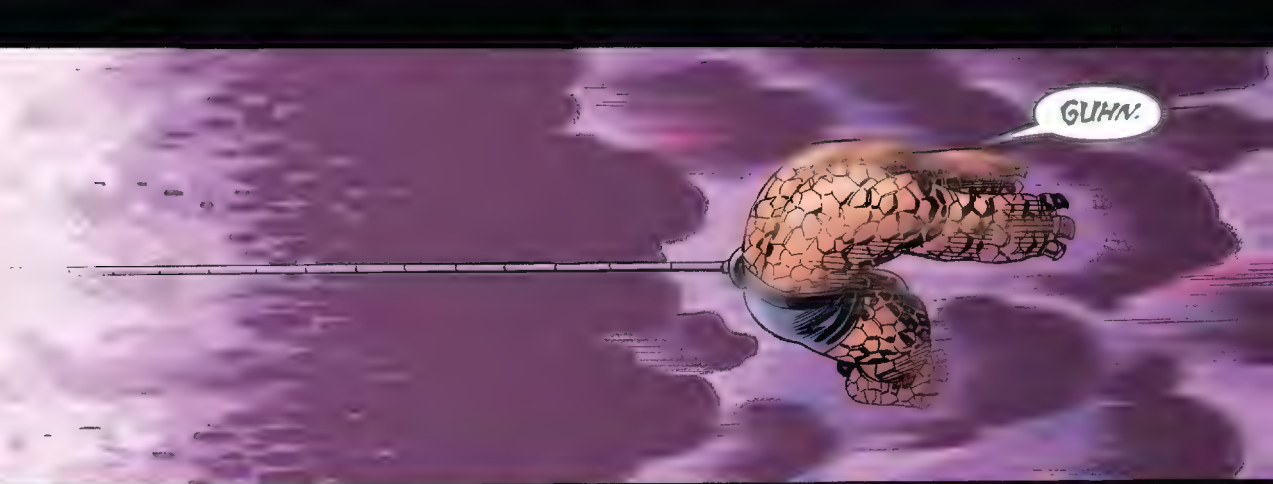
NO...
AHHHHGGGH --
IT BURNS!

...DRAINING
ME...

NO

HEYYYYYY!

THEY'LL EXPECT
ME TO TRY AND
STOP THEM.



GUHN.



YA THINK
I'M A DANG
BLASTED
YO-YO?!

SHUT UP.
WE'RE NOT
OUT OF THIS
YET.



I DON'T
GET IT. WHY
DIDN'T YA JUST
LEAVE ME IN
THERE?



I HAVE MY
REASONS.

WHAT THEY WON'T
UNDERSTAND --
EVEN WITH ALL THEIR
BRAIN POWER...



...I DON'T WANT TO STOP THEM.

THAT'S FOR MAKIN' ME WORRY.



I'LL LET YOU HAVE THAT ONE.

THERE'LL BE A TIME, SOON. SOONER THAN YOU'LL LIKE OR BE COMFORTABLE WITH --

-- WHEN YOU'RE GOING TO WISH I DIDN'T PULL YOU OUT OF THE ZONE. THAT I LET YOU DIE IN THERE.



THAT'S HOW BAD IT'S GOING TO GET...

GET LOST, YA BUM.



BEN!

THEY KIDNAPPED REED.



SUSIE, WE'LL GET YER HUBBY BACK.

WEIRD. RED SAID IT WAS ALL A DISTRACTION...

**THE CAVE
THAT NIGHT.**

THEY TOOK
RICHARDS.

THERE WERE
NO OTHER
CASUALTIES?

IT COULD'VE
BEEN A LOT
WORSE.

THEN IT
SOUNDS LIKE
YOU PLAYED
YOUR ROLE
PROPERLY.

BANNER.
YOU *KNEW*
MY ABSORBING
THAT DAMNED
NEGATIVE ZONE
ENERGY WOULD
WEAKEN ME.

I TOOK
A BEATING
FROM THE
THING!

I HAVE
TO GO. THEY'LL
MOVE ON EITHER
PYM OR MCCOY
NEXT.

SOMETHING
LIKE THAT HAPPENS
AGAIN AND I *WILL*
KILL YOU.

NO. YOU
WON'T.

EVERYTHING
HINGES ON OUR
ALLIANCE.

NOT
EVERYTHING...

I'M GOING TO MAKE SURE
THAT THEY SUCCEED...

ROUND ★ NINE



MAN NOR BEAST



ISSUE 20 COVER ★ ED McGUINNESS, MARK FARMER & DAVE STEWART

WE ARE
AT WAR.

WHERE
THE HELL ARE
YOU?

WHERE I'M
SUPPOSED TO BE,
BANNER.

WHY DON'T
YOU WORRY A
LITTLE LESS
ABOUT WHAT I'M
UP TO AND A LOT
MORE ABOUT
YOUR END OF
THINGS?

DECISIONS I'VE
MADE MAY COST
LIVES, BUT WHAT
HAS TO MATTER IS
THE END RESULT.

NOT
WORRYING
ABOUT YOU
WORRIES
ME.

YOU SOUND
LIKE AN OLD
WOMAN.

BUT,
THEN AGAIN,
YOU'VE ALWAYS
SOUNDED LIKE
THAT.

I
LOVE YOU
TOO.

I HATE BANNER.
HE'S EVERYTHING
A MAN SHOULDN'T BE.

TIMING IS
SO CRITICAL AT
THIS JUNCTURE.
I SHOULD'VE
TELEPORTED
YOU IN --

-- LOOK.
YOU MAY BE ONE
OF THE SO-CALLED
"EIGHT SMARTEST
MEN" --

-- BUT YOU
COULDN'T FILL A
THIMBLE WITH WHAT
YOU KNOW ABOUT
THIS TYPE OF
MISSION.

IF THERE WERE ANY
OTHER WAY TO PULL
THIS OFF WITHOUT
HIM, I WOULD'VE
MADE THAT CALL.

THAT'S WHAT
IT ALWAYS COMES
DOWN TO, ISN'T IT? MY
INTELLECT AND YOUR
ARROGANCE.

KEEP IN MIND
THAT THE ENEMY IS
JUST AS -- OR MAYBE
EVEN MORE -- BRILLIANT
THAN I AM AND THAT
MAKES YOU --

-- WHAT'S
THAT, BANNER?
THERE'S A LOT
OF STATIC --

THE
CONNECTION
IS SOLID. STOP
BEHAVING LIKE
A SPOILED --

NOT SURE IF
YOU'RE RECEIVING,
BUT THIS IS ME,
OVER AND --



..OUT!

HE'S RIGHT ABOUT ONE THING.
WE'RE DEALING WITH A
VERY DANGEROUS ENEMY.

I SHOULD KNOW. I STARTED
OUT ALLIED WITH THEM. HELPED
DESIGN THEIR BATTLE PLAN.

THEN THEY BETRAYED ME
AND THAT'S HOW I WOUND
UP IN LEAGUE WITH HIM.

I NEEDED SOMEONE
WHO UNDERSTOOD LOYALTY.
TRUST. COURAGE.

I FOUND NONE OF
THAT IN BANNER.

INSTEAD, I SETTLED FOR
OUR MUTUAL LOATHING
FOR EVERYONE INVOLVED
IN THIS CONSPIRACY.

**INTELLIGENCIA HEADQUARTERS.
LOCATION CLASSIFIED.**

MY ENEMY'S ENEMY
IS MY FRIEND.

ALTHOUGH I'D
HARDLY CLASSIFY
BANNER AS A FRIEND.

TWO OF
THE EIGHT
DOWN.

THREE, GIVEN
THAT STARK IS SO
MENTALLY DISABLED
HE'S BECOME
IRRELEVANT.

ONLY
FOR THE
PRESENT.

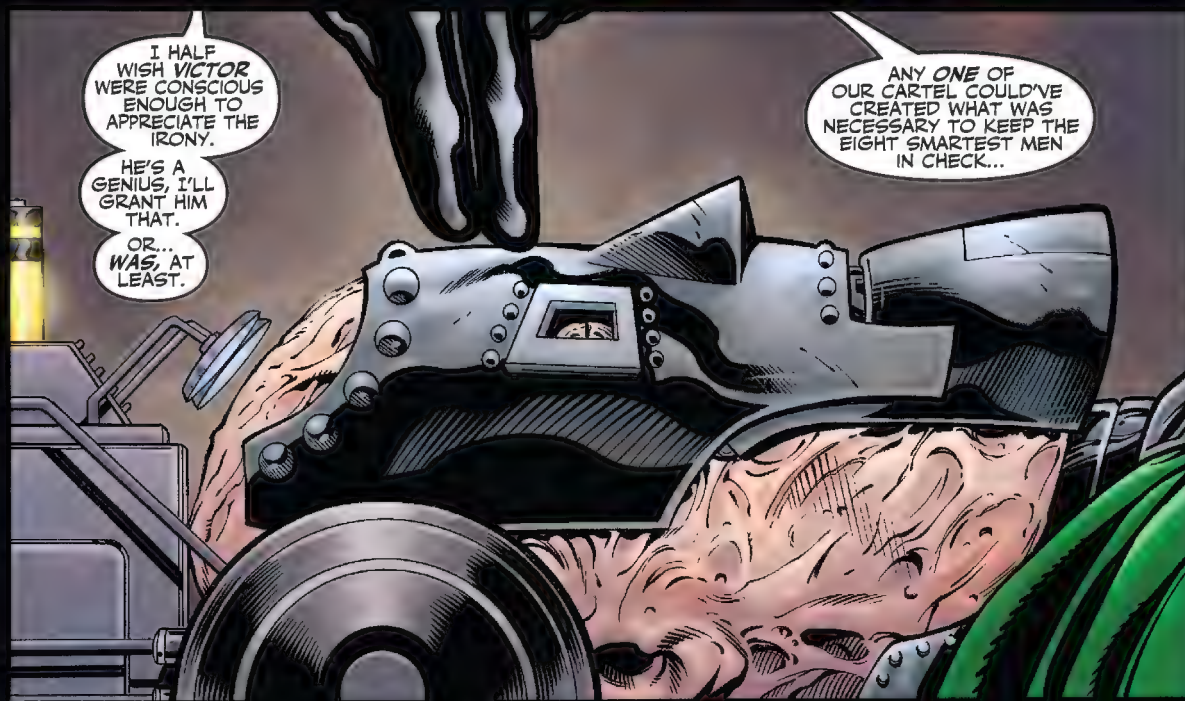
YOU DON'T
ACTUALLY BELIEVE
THAT WE DON'T HAVE
TONY STARK TO KICK
AROUND ANYMORE,
M.O.D.O.K.?



I BELIEVE
THAT AT OUR
CURRENT RATE OF
EXECUTION, BY
THE TIME STARK
COULD PRESENT
HIMSELF AS A
PROBLEM --

-- IT WILL BE
TOO LATE. THUS,
IRRELEVANT.

THE
DIE HAS
BEEN CAST,
LEADER.



I HALF
WISH VICTOR
WERE CONSCIOUS
ENOUGH TO
APPRECIATE THE
IRONY.

HE'S A
GENIUS, I'LL
GRANT HIM
THAT.

OR...
WAS, AT
LEAST.

ANY ONE OF
OUR CARTEL COULD'VE
CREATED WHAT WAS
NECESSARY TO KEEP THE
EIGHT SMARTEST MEN
IN CHECK...



...BUT,
WHY WASTE
THAT EFFORT
WHEN DOOM HAD
IT DONE FOR US
ALREADY?

THE
LIDDLEVILLE
TECHNOLOGY.

MADE ONLY
MORE COMPELLING
BY REMOVING
INTELLECT RATHER
THAN MANIPULATING
IT.

I HAVEN'T
COMPLETELY
ELIMINATED
THAT OPTION,
HOWEVER.

I WANT
WHAT'S INSIDE
THEIR HEADS,
THINKER.

ONCE THAT
INFORMATION HAS
BEEN STORED AND
CATALOGUED, FEEL FREE
TO UPLOAD WHATEVER
NIGHTMARE OCCURS
TO YOU.

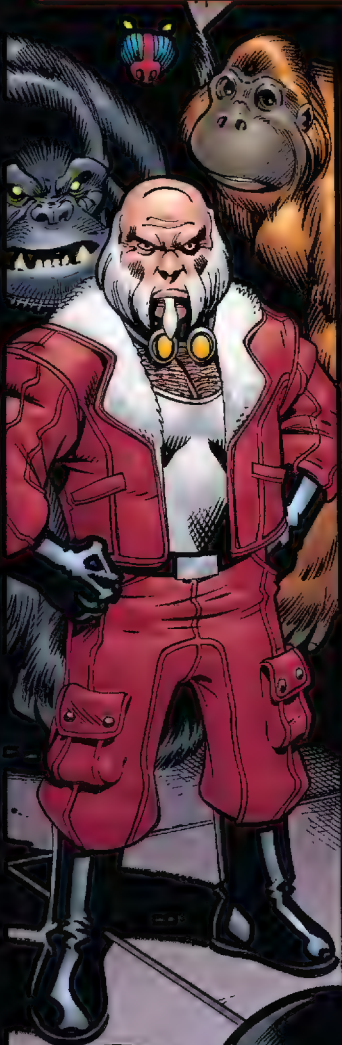
TRUST ME.
I'VE GIVEN IT A
GREAT DEAL OF
THOUGHT.

AS IT IS IN ANY CONFLICT,
SOMEONE MUST RISE
UP AND TAKE CONTROL.

THAT PERSON THEN BECOMES
THE FOCUS OF SCRUTINY. THEIR
MOTIVATIONS QUESTIONED.

LIBRARIES ARE FILLED WITH
POST-WAR COMMENTARIES
ON MILITARY STRATEGY.

WRITTEN MOSTLY BY
MEN WHO HAVE NEVER HAD
BLOOD ON THEIR HANDS.



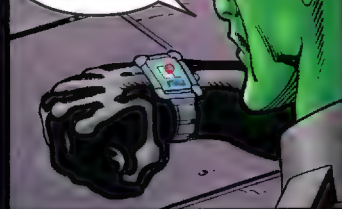
AND WHAT IF WE
SHOULD ENCOUNTER
THE RED HULK?

JUST
COMPLETE
THE TASK AT
HAND.

I DO NOT
UNDERSTAND.
WHY NOT KILL HIM
AND BE DONE
WITH IT?

GHOST.
YOU NEED
TO LEAVE
NOW.

AS WE
PREDICTED BY
SELECTING THIS
PARTICULAR DATE,
THIS EVENING WILL
PROVIDE NOT
ONE, BUT TWO
ADDITIONAL...
GIFTS...



YOU'RE
QUITE RIGHT.
YOU DO NOT
UNDERSTAND...

MEN LIKE
BANNER.

**WAKANDA, AFRICA.
THE ROYAL PALACE AND HOME TO
T'CHALLA, THE BLACK PANTHER,
AND ORORO, THE X-MEN'S STORM.**

OH MY
STARS AND
GARTERS...

ALL ALLIANCES
SUFFER FROM
THE SAME
WEAKNESS.
THEY ARE
LARGELY FALSE.

IT NEVER CEASES TO AMAZE ME,
T'CHALLA, HOW ELEGANT
WAKANDA IS. YOU'VE PULLED
OFF THE NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE
BALANCE OF TECHNOLOGY
AND NATURE.

I APPRECIATE
YOU SAYING SO,
HANK, EVEN IF I'M
NOT ENTIRELY SURE
IT'S TRUE.

LIKE ANY TWO
OPPOSING FORCES,
IT'S A CONSTANT
STRUGGLE.

MAN AND
BEAST.

MEN AND
WOMEN.

IS...EVERYTHING
OKAY BETWEEN YOU
AND ORORO?

MARRIAGE IS
NOT WITHOUT ITS
CHALLENGES.

NOTHING
THAT WOULD KEEP
A HUSBAND FROM
CELEBRATING HIS
WIFE'S BIRTHDAY.

GENTLEMEN...

I'M GLAD THAT
A WOMAN OF MY
"ADVANCED YEARS"
CAN
STILL RENDER TWO
OF HER FAVORITE
MEN...

...SPEECHLESS...



NOBODY WANTS AN ALLY SINCE NOBODY WANTS TO ADMIT THEY NEED AN ALLY.

MY HEART STILL SKIPS A BEAT WHENEVER I SET EYES ON YOU.

I'M EXCITED ABOUT THIS EVENING, DARLING.

ANY IDEA HOW MANY OTHER GUESTS YOU'LL BE HAVING --

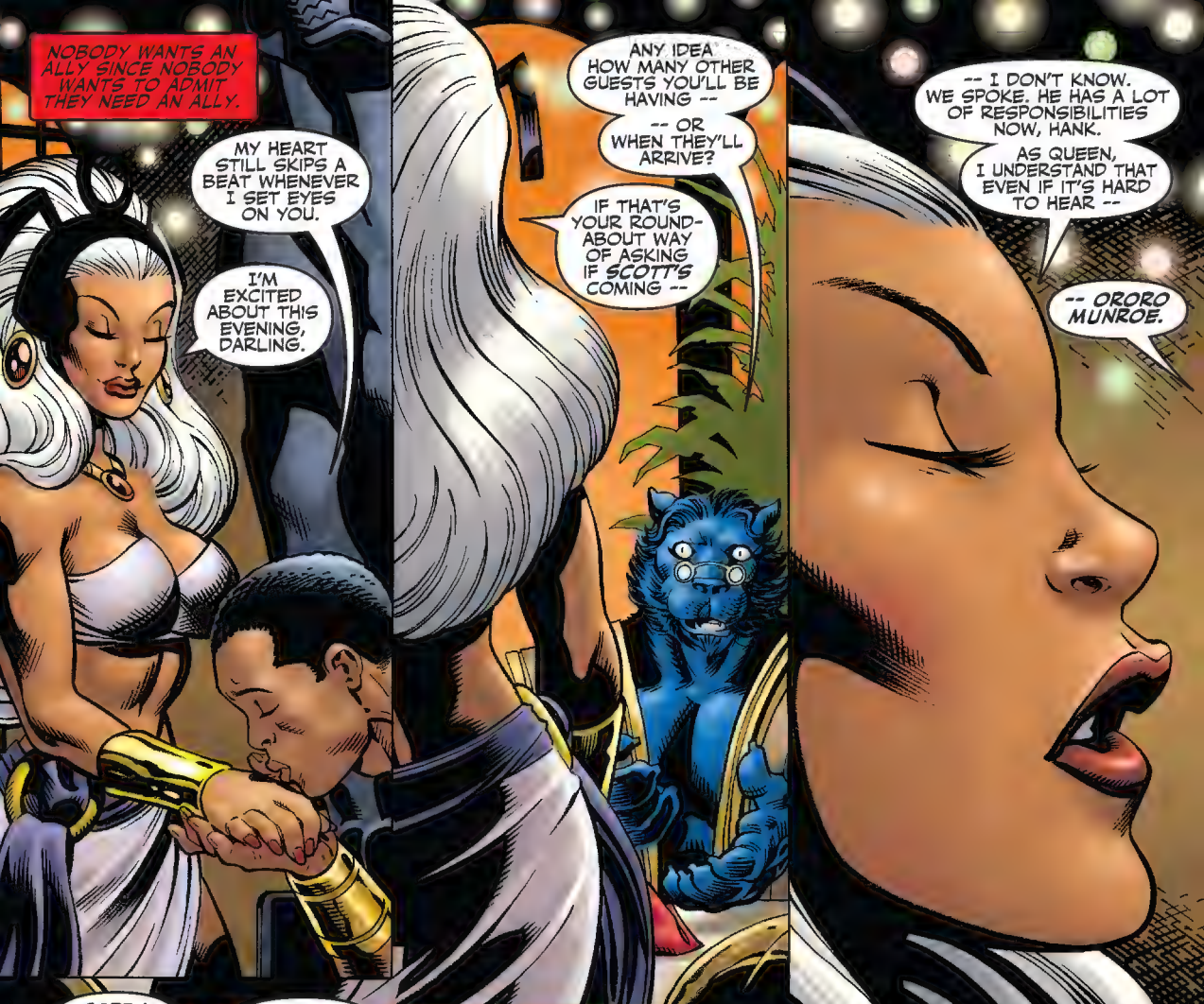
-- OR WHEN THEY'LL ARRIVE?

IF THAT'S YOUR ROUND-ABOUT WAY OF ASKING IF SCOTT'S COMING --

-- I DON'T KNOW. WE SPOKE. HE HAS A LOT OF RESPONSIBILITIES NOW, HANK.

AS QUEEN, I UNDERSTAND THAT EVEN IF IT'S HARD TO HEAR --

-- ORORO MUNROE.



SORRY WE'RE LATE. WE JUST GOT OFF WORK --

-- I WANTED TO STOP AND GET DRESSED, BUT BOBBY INSISTED --

-- BAD FORM AND BAD MANNERS TO SHOW UP TOO LATE TO HELP THE BIRTHDAY GIRL BLOW OUT THE --

-- CANDLES...?!

BOBBY.

WHAT? I DIDN'T TOUCH ANYTHING, SCOTT, I SWEAR.

THIS SHOULDN'T -- CAN'T BE HAPPENING --



EACH SIDE MAKING
EMPTY PROMISES
TO BE KEPT AT THE
PROSPECT OF VICTORY.

WAKANDA'S
ELECTRICITY IS
INDIVIDUALIZED. NO TWO
STRUCTURES HAVE THE
SAME POWER SOURCE.
THE PALACE ALONE
HAS DOZENS.

A
CITYWIDE
BLACKOUT
WOULD
TAKE --

-- ONE
WELL-PLACED
E.M.P.
BURST --

ORORO!

T'CHALLA!

ORORO,
YOU AND
ANGEL
TAKE
TO THE
SKY.

I'VE
GOT BOBBY.
HANK, YOU
FOLLOW.

YOU ALWAYS
DID KNOW HOW TO
MAKE AN ENTRANCE,
SUMMERS.

-- AND YOU
HAVE BECOME
BOTH CAPTIVE
AND BAIT.

I MADE NO
PROMISES TO
BANNER.

SUCH
LUXURIES.

THIS LAND.
YOUR CITY.
I WILL HAVE
THEM SOON.

THE
PERFECT
HOME FOR
MYSELF --

-- AND MY
FRIENDS.

THEY
ARE COMING
NOW.

REMEMBER.
AS WE TRAINED.
FROM BOTH THE
SKY AND THE
LAND.

THESE ARE
THE X-MEN.

HURT THEM.
DO NOT LET THEM
HURT YOU.

KRAGOFF.



BOO.

UNDERSTANDING
YOUR ALLIES IS AS
IMPORTANT AS KNOWING
YOUR ENEMIES.

EVERY MOVE THAT
THE INTELLIGENCIA
MAKES, I HAVE TO
BE TWO AHEAD.

BULLSEYE,
SCOTTY --

-- BUT
THE GHOST'S
RUNNING
OFF WITH
T'CHALLA!

WE COULD
LOSE T'CHALLA IN
THE WEEDS --

-- WE
WON'T.

BUT IF WE
LET THE RED
HULK GET UP,
WE WILL.

-- WE
DON'T EVEN
KNOW WHAT
HE'S DOING
HERE --

-- AND I
DON'T HAVE
TIME FOR
YOU TO BE
QUESTIONING
ME ON
THIS.


STAY
ON RED.

SCOTT.

NOT A
PROBLEM. I'VE
SEEN HIM FALL
BEFORE.

DO WHAT
YOU WANT. I'M
GOING AFTER
T'CHALLA!

BANNER HAS THE
ADDED COMPLICATION
OF HAVING TO ALSO
KEEP ANY EYE ON ME.



EACH SIDE HAS
THEIR STRENGTHS
AND WEAKNESSES.

EACH HAS TO
BE EXPLOITED
DIFFERENTLY.
CAREFULLY.
SELECTIVELY.

TAKE
HIM DOWN,
X-MEN.

LIKE WITH BANNER.
HE OPERATES
OUT OF GUILT.

EVERYTHING THE HULK
EVER DESTROYED.
EVERYONE THE HULK
EVER HURT LIVES
INSIDE OF HIM.

POUR
IT ON! EVERYTHING
YOU'VE GOT. DON'T GIVE
HIM THE SLIGHTEST
FOOTHOLD.

CAN BANNER EVEN SEE
WHAT WE'RE UP AGAINST?
AN ENEMY WHO DOESN'T ACT
OUT OF GUILT OR REMORSE.

CLASSIC
BATTLEFIELD
BLUNDER.

YOU'RE SO
FOCUSED ON
YOUR RIGHT
FLANK --

-- YOU
NEVER SAW WHAT
WAS COMING FROM
THE LEFT...

GRAARRWW

UGHN

GAH

I ALMOST ENVY
THE GHOST'S
PARTNERSHIP WITH
THE SO-CALLED
"SUPER" APES.



THEY DO AS THEY
ARE ORDERED.



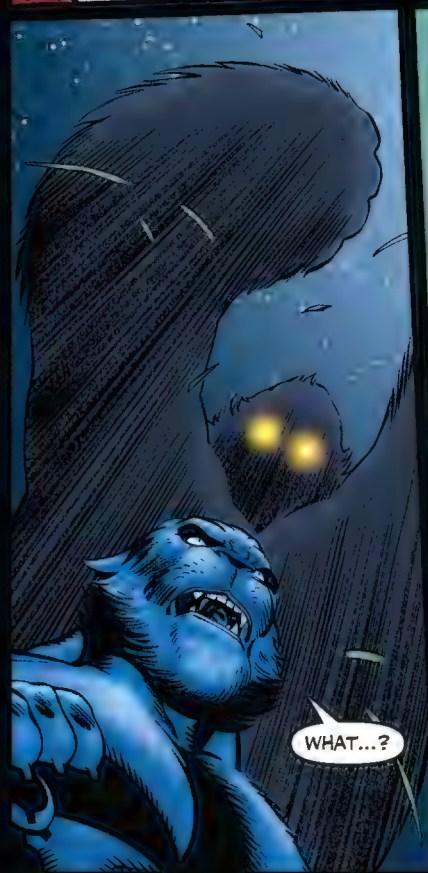
YOU'RE NOT LEAVING.

ALTHOUGH, KRAGOFF CLEARLY PUT THE BEASTS THROUGH... THE PROCESS. THE YELLOW EYES. MORE LIKE GAMMA APES AT THIS POINT.



A MORE ACCURATE WAY OF THINKING ABOUT THIS, DR. MCCOY, IS I WILL NOT BE LEAVING...

...WITHOUT YOU.



WHAT...?



MIKHLO! NO. WE NEED MCCOY. ALIVE.



RACORRHH

THE INTELLIGENCIA USES
EVERYTHING AT THEIR
DISPOSAL FOR THE SOLE
PURPOSE OF VICTORY.

YOU MADE
HIM POWERFUL,
KRAGOFF.

MAYBE
HE DOESN'T HAVE
TO LISTEN TO YOU
ANYMORE.

IS
THAT WHAT
THE LEADER
AND M.O.D.O.K.
THINK OF ME
NOW?

KNOWING
HOW THEY
TREATED
ME...

...JUST
IMAGINE WHAT
THEY HAVE IN
STORE FOR
YOU...

MIKHLO.
KILL THE RED HULK
AND BE DONE
WITH IT.

THE LINE IN THE
SAND BETWEEN MAN
AND BEAST GETS VERY
BLURRY DURING WAR.

WATCH
THIS.

YOU DON'T GET TO HOLD
YOUR MORAL GROUND
WHEN "THOU SHALT
NOT KILL" IS NO
LONGER AN OPTION.

CALL OVER
YOUR OTHER
PETS.

THAT DOESN'T MAKE
ME UNCOMFORTABLE.
NEVER HAS.

NOW THAT HIS HULK IS GONE, BANNER SEES THIS AS A CHANCE FOR REDEMPTION.

I WARNED THEM. I WARNED THEM ALL AND THEY WOULD NOT LISTEN. YOU ARE NOTHING BUT AN ANIMAL.

MIKHLO WAS NOT A PET. HE WAS FAMILY --

-- I WILL CRUSH YOUR HEART AS YOU HAVE MINE.

YURK

YARRRGHHHHH

BUT HE KNOWS HE DOESN'T HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO WIN THIS BY HIMSELF.

WHERE... WHERE IS...
KRAGOFF?

GONE. WITH
T'CHALLA AND
HANK MCCOY.

ALONG WITH
THE TWO APES AND
THE BODY OF THE
ONE YOU KILLED.

WHAT WERE
YOU DOING HERE?
WHOSE SIDE ARE
YOU ON?

SIDES?

FOR SOMEONE
WHO HAS FOUND
HIMSELF ALLIED WITH THE
LIKES OF MAGNETO,
SUMMERS --

-- DON'T
PRETEND YOU
STILL BELIEVE
IN SIDES.

THIS IS WAR.
IT'S MESSY AND
COMPLICATED AND
YOU DON'T KNOW WHO
YOUR REAL ENEMIES
ARE UNTIL IT'S OVER
AND MAYBE NOT
EVEN THEN.

THEN
WE'LL KEEP
YOU HERE
AS PRISONER.
HAVE EMMA
RIP WHAT YOU
DO KNOW OUT
OF YOUR
HEAD.

GOOD
LUCK WITH
THAT.

HE CAN'T
DO IT WITHOUT
THE HULK...

HE CAN'T DO IT
WITHOUT ME...

THE CAVE.



INTELLIGENCIA HEADQUARTERS.

IT'S WHY WHEN
THIS IS ALL OVER...

...BANNER WILL
HAVE TO TAKE
THE FALL...

I
WANT HIM
DEAD.

YOU'RE
REACTING
EMOTIONALLY,
KRAGOFF.

WE'LL GET
YOU ANOTHER
GORILLA TO
REPLACE MIKHLO
AND --

NYET.

YOU'RE
AFRAID OF
THE RED HULK,
AREN'T YOU,
STERNS?

HE REMINDS
YOU OF YOUR
COUNTLESS FAILURES
WITH BANNER'S
GREEN HULK.

IF YOU'RE
GOING TO LET
SAMSON BE YOUR
EYES, KRAGOFF,
YOU'LL BE BLIND TO
WHAT I CAN SEE IS
HAPPENING.

WHICH
IS WHAT?

IN ALLYING
HIMSELF WITH
BANNER --

-- WHILE
BOLD AND CERTAINLY
UNEXPECTED --

-- HE'S
FORCED TO
DENY HIS TRUE
NATURE.

IT'S LIKE
EVERY TIME BANNER
WOULD ATTEMPT TO
CONTROL HIS OWN HULK.
IT WOULD ONLY END
IN DISASTER.

WHY
DON'T I WANT
THE RED HULK
DEAD?

BECAUSE
IF HE CONTINUES
DOWN THIS PATH,
AND HE WILL --

-- OUR
GREATEST
ENEMY...

...WILL ONCE
AGAIN BECOME
OUR GREATEST
ALLY....

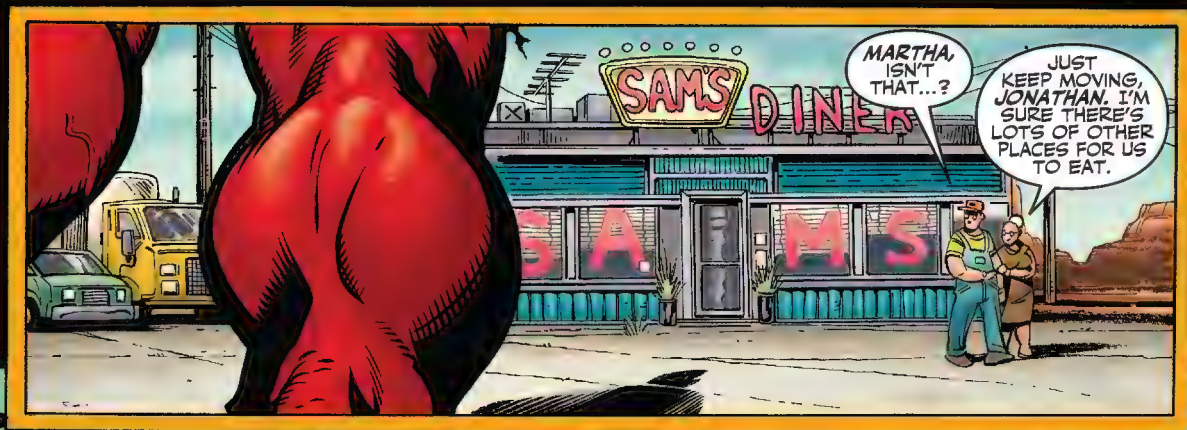
ROUND ★ TEN



THE BEST LAID PLANS



ISSUE 21 COVER ★ ED McGUINNESS, MARK FARMER & DAVE STEWART



MARTHA,
ISN'T
THAT...?

JUST
KEEP
MOVING,
JONATHAN. I'M
SURE THERE'S
LOTS OF OTHER
PLACES FOR US
TO EAT.

SAM'S DINER.
OUTSIDE SANTA FE,
NEW MEXICO.
TWO WEEKS AGO.

BE SURE
TO TRY
AUDREY'S
PIES

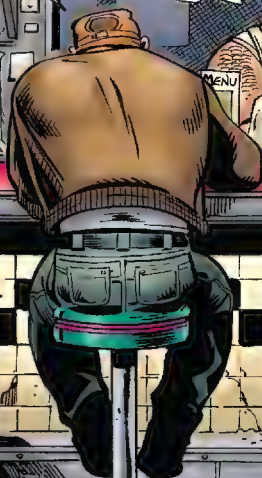


OUR BURGERS
ARE THE
BEST

NO SHIRT
NO SHOES
NO SERVICE

DAMN FINE
HAMBURGER, SAM.
MY COMPLIMENTS
TO THE --

-- M-MISTER.
YOU BEST PAY
YOUR BILL AND BE
ON YOUR WAY.



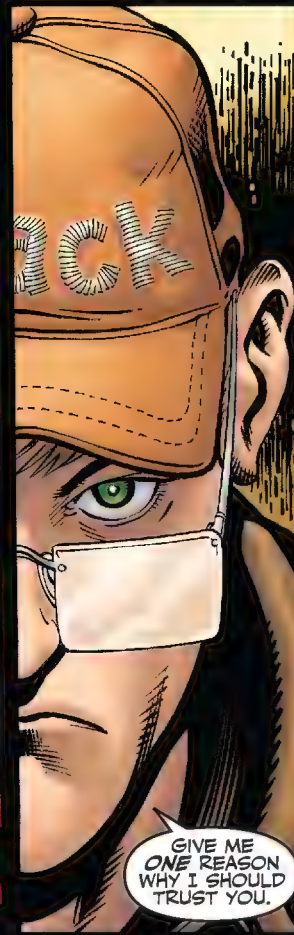
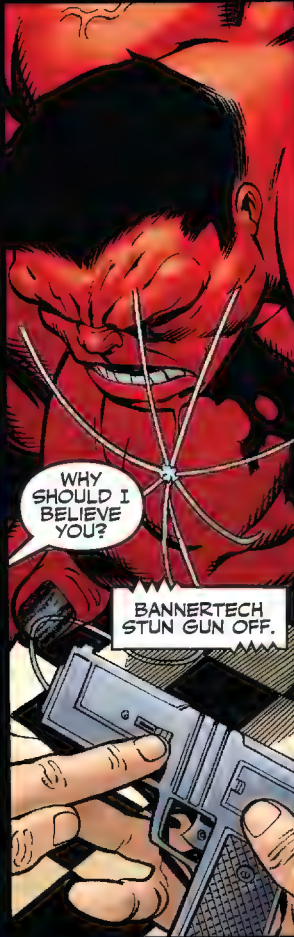
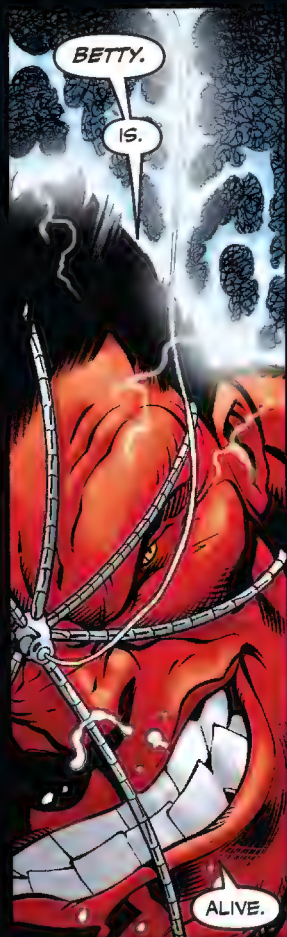
AND HERE
I WAS HOPING TO
HAVE A SLICE
OF PIE.



YOU
KNOW WHAT
THEY SAY ABOUT
THE BEST LAID
PLANS.

BANNER.





VIRGINIA COUNTRYSIDE. TONIGHT.

SO, I
TOLD HIM.

THE ONLY THING
WORTH KNOWING.

THE ONLY THING HE'D
WANT BESIDES BETTY.



I TOLD HIM
WHO I WAS AND
HOW I BECAME
THE RED HULK.



WE A
"GO?"

GREEN
LIGHT.

AND THEN
AFTER MAKING
SURE EVERYONE
HAD CLEARED
OUT...

...I
SHOWED
HIM.



I WISH IT HAD BEEN ONE
OF THOSE MOMENTS
WHERE PEOPLE SAY:

"YOU SHOULD'VE
SEEN HIS FACE."



INSTEAD HE
BARELY CHANGED
HIS EXPRESSION.

ALL HE
SAID WAS...

"WHERE'S
BETTY?"

MAYBE HE WAS
SURPRISED.
I DON'T KNOW.

WHEN A MAN
CAN KEEP
SOMETHING
PENT UP INSIDE
OF HIM FOR
AS LONG AS
BANNER HAS --

-- SOMETHING THAT'S
AS BIG AND GREEN
AND POWERFUL AS
HIS ALTER EGO --

-- HE WOULD'VE
HAD TO HAVE
EARNED ONE
HELL OF A
POKER FACE.

THE THING IS I COULD'VE TURNED
OUT TO BE ADOLF HITLER --
-- BUT GIVEN WE WERE TALKING
ABOUT BETTY BEING ALIVE --

-- I MIGHT
JUST AS WELL
HAVE BEEN
PAPA SAUSAGE.

GOTCHA.

WOULDN'T
WANT TO LOSE
YOU...

I HAD PLAYED IT
EXACTLY RIGHT.

HE WAS CONVINCED
I WASN'T LYING.

BANNER WAS MY
NEW BEST FRIEND.

WHERE WAS BETTY...?

I COULDN'T BE SURE, BUT THIS IS WHERE WE HAD TO START. TONY STARK THOUGHT I BROUGHT DOWN HIS PRECIOUS GOLDEN HELICARRIER AS A RANDOM ACT OF VIOLENCE.

NOTHING I DID WAS RANDOM.

A CLOAKED, ORBITING BEHEMOTH CAPABLE OF SATELLITE INTERFACE WAS RIPE FOR THE TAKING.

ONE MORE EXAMPLE OF HOW MISDIRECTED AND MISGUIDED THIS COUNTRY HAS BEEN.

THE THINKER DUBBED IT "THE HELLCARRIER." THIS FROM THE MAN WHO WAS PARTNERED WITH THE "AWESOME ANDROID."

I TOLD BANNER ABOUT THE INTELLIGENCIA.

HOW M.O.D.O.K. AND THE LEADER -- ALONG WITH THE MAD THINKER, THE WIZARD, AND THE RED GHOST -- HAD JOINED TOGETHER TO CHANGE THE WORLD.

I COULD TELL HE LIKED IT. THIS WASN'T ABOUT WHO WAS THE STRONGEST THERE IS...

...YOU HAD TO BE THE SMARTEST TO WIN.

FROM THERE HE WENT INTO SCIENTIST MODE.

HUNGRY FOR RESEARCH. EVERY DETAIL. THE MINUTIA OF IT ALL.

WHEN HE HEARD ENOUGH HE STOPPED ASKING QUESTIONS. HE ALREADY HAD THE FIRST MOVE.

"GENERAL ROSS HAS TO DIE."

IT WAS A SIDE OF BANNER I'D NEVER SEEN BEFORE. AND I THOUGHT I'D SEEN THEM ALL...

AS MUCH AS IT GALLED ME, I PICKED THE RIGHT MAN FOR THE RIGHT JOB.

HE COULD THINK LIKE THEM AND MAYBE, HOPEFULLY, OUTTHINK THEM.

I'M IN.

DO YOU READ?

@#%&.

THREE MINUTES AND COUNTING.

2:59

THAT GOT US TO TONIGHT. TO NOW.

WHERE EVERYTHING RELIES ON BANNER...

...AND THAT'S WHAT WORRIES ME THE MOST.

WE SPLIT INTO
TWO TEAMS.

HE'S HERE
TO BRING
OUT THE
THINK TANK.

THE SO-CALLED
"EIGHT SMARTEST MEN."
THEY'VE SNAGGED
FIVE SO FAR.

REED RICHARDS.
DOC DOOM. HANK MCCOY.
T'CHALLA. HANK PYM.

BANNER NEEDED THEM ALL
IN ONE PLACE. SOMETHING
ABOUT PINPOINTING THEIR
COMBINED BRAIN WAVES
OR FREQUENCY SINCE THIS
BOAT KEEPS MOVING...

WHATEVER. HE NAILED IT
AND WE'RE IN. SCORE ONE
FOR THE MILKSOP.

ME? I HANDLE
THE REST.

IF OUR INTEL
WAS RIGHT --
JEN WALTERS --
THE GREEN
SHE-HULK
SHOULD BE
IN THIS TANK.

WHICH MEANS
EITHER BANNER
GOT TO HER
ALREADY --

-- OR HIS
COMMLINK GOING
SILENT ISN'T A
MALFUNCTION...

HIS POWER
SOURCE HAS BEEN
AUGMENTED BY
BOTH GAMMA
AND COSMIC
ENERGY.

WHAT'S
YOUR OPINION OF
THE THINKER'S
"GAMMADROID"
NOW...?



AWESOME.


ENTERTAINMENT.

ARROGANCE
WAS AND WILL
FOREVER BE
YOUR GREATEST
FLAW.

DID YOU
THINK YOU COULD
COME BACK AFTER
YOU BETRAYED
US AND NOT BE
PUNISHED?

THE GIANT HEAD
IS M.O.D.O.K.
BRILLIANT, IF YOUR
MAIN OBJECTIVE
IS KILLING.

DID I EVER
BELIEVE I
COULD TRUST
THIS...THING?



THIS IS
A BATTLE
YOU CANNOT
WIN.

MAYBE
NOT...

...BUT I'M
NOT GOING DOWN
WITHOUT A BIG
GOOEY HANDFUL
OF YOUR BRAIN
WITH ME.

BECAUSE
YOU'RE WEAK.

INTERNAL BLEEDING
FROM THE GAMMADROID
COUPLED WITH
M.O.D.O.K.'S PSI-BOLT.

FEELS LIKE MY
SKIN IS BEING RIPPED
APART IN THREADS.

WEAK IN
THE MIND AS IT
AFFECTS YOUR
SPIRIT. CORRUPTED.
TARNISHED.

A SHELL
OF THE PERSON
WHO WE FIRST
SOUGHT OUT. A *SHELL*
WE CAN STILL USE,
HOWEVER...




WHAT
THE HELL
ARE YOU
DOING...!

WAIT...
YOU'RE NOT
BANNER...

BANNER... ?!

YOU'RE THAT...
MACHINE...



AMONG THE MANY SPOILS FROM
THEIR LOOTING, THE INTELLIGENCIA
MADE OFF WITH THIS...WEAPON.

MORE POWERFUL THAN THE ACTUAL
GREEN HULK, ITS ENERGY SOURCE IS
PURE COSMIC AND NOT GAMMA BASED.

EVEN AT MY FULL
STRENGTH, IT'S
OVERWHELMING...

ABOVE THE HELLCARRIER.

THE AVENGERS' QUINJET.

THE X-MEN'S BLACKBIRD.

THE FANTASTIC FOUR'S
FANTASTIKAR.

ANYTHING?

NOTHING,
CYCLOPS.

IT'S
LIKE IT'S
DEAD IN THE
WATER.

WHAT
HAS BANNER
BROUGHT US
INTO...?

GOTTA AGREE WITH THE
INVISIBLE WOMAN.
FULL SCAN. THERE'S NO
ONE ON BOARD.

THAT'S THE
NEW S.H.I.E.L.D.
HELICARRIER THAT
CRASHED IN
NEW JERSEY,
BARNES.

TONY
IS GOING
TO BE SO
PISSED.

IT DIDN'T
JUST CRASH
ON ITS OWN,
CAROL.

THE
RED HULK
TORE THROUGH IT.
THEY WERE LUCKY
NO ONE WAS
KILLED.

SCANNERS CAN
BE WRONG.

BANNER'S HAD
LONG ENOUGH.

I'M NOT CHANCING
LOSING HANK OR T'CHALLA
AGAIN. OR PYM AND REED
FOR THAT MATTER.

ANGEL -- I
NEED YOU TO STAY UP
TOP -- KEEP AN EYE
ON THINGS --

SERIOUSLY?
YOU'VE GOT
THE AVENGERS,
THE FANTASTIC FOUR,
AND THE X-MEN
RIDING WITH YOU.

WHAT
COULD YOU
POSSIBLY
BE WORRIED
ABOUT?

HE'S
SCOTT SUMMERS,
WARREN. WORRY IS
WHAT HE DOES.

**IN THE BOWELS
OF THE HELLCARRIER.**

I KNOW
WHAT YOU'RE
THINKING.
BANNER'S
NOT COMING.

THERE ISN'T
GOING TO BE A
CAVALRY COMING
OVER THE HILL TO
SAVE YOU.

QUITE THE
CONTRARY.

YOU
JUST GOT
EVERYBODY
KILLED.

LEONARD SAMSON, PH.D
HE WAS A NOTHING
PSYCHIATRIST FROM
SOMEWHERE IN THE MIDWEST
WHO HAD AN IDEA.

A SIMPLE IDEA.

AN INVENTION THAT
COULD DRAW OFF THE
ENERGY FROM ONE
PERSON AND DRIVE
IT INTO ANOTHER.

WITH
M.O.D.O.K.'S
HELP, THE
CATHESIS RAY
WAS CREATED --

-- BANNER'S
GREEN HULK
WAS DRAINED AND
"DOC SAMSON"
WAS BORN.

ONLY...IT DIDN'T
STOP THERE....

BUT THAT'S
WHAT YOU DO,
ISN'T IT? PICK
UP A MEDAL AND
ASK FOR THE
CHECK...

FEELING...
DRAINED...
ALREADY...

DING

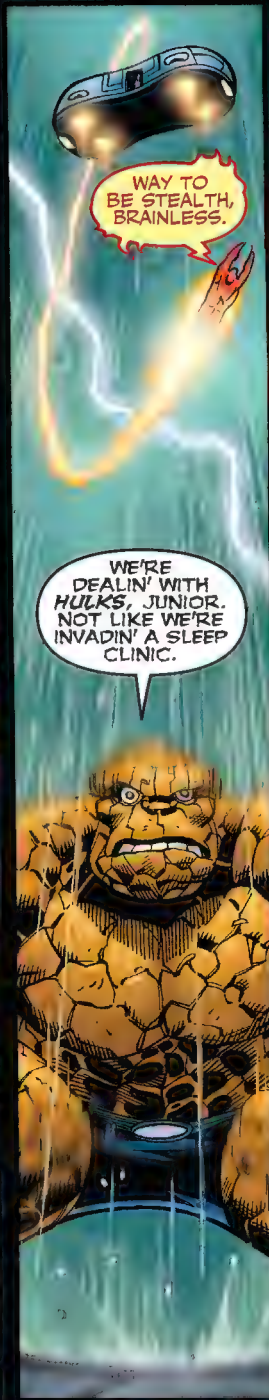
TIME TO
TAKE THE
TURKEY OUT
OF THE OVEN.



THREE TEAMS.
THREE ATTACK
POINTS.

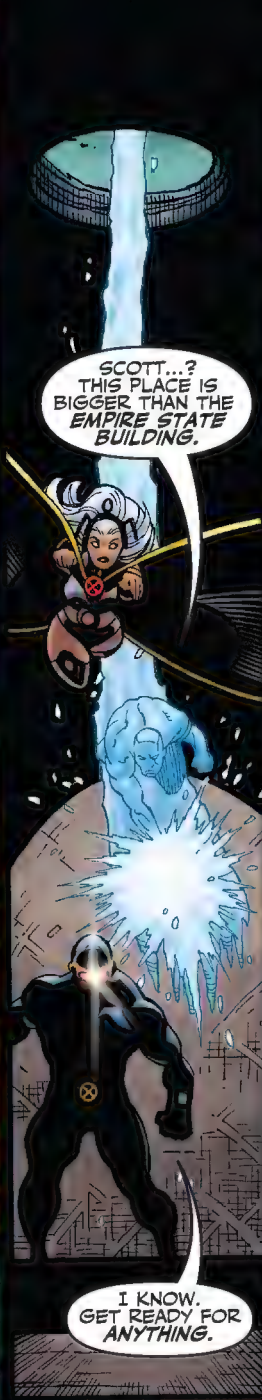
I
DON'T LIKE
NOT HAVING
HEARD FROM
BRUCE.

LET'S
ASSUME
THE WORST.
THE RED HULK
MIGHT'VE
TAKEN HIM
OUT.



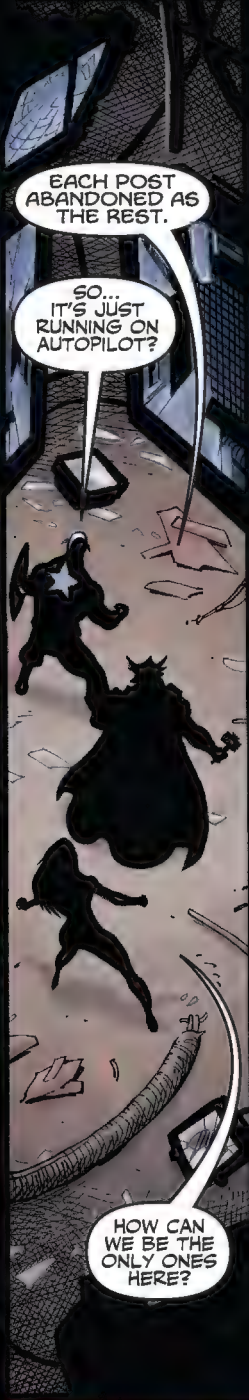
WAY TO
BE STEALTH,
BRAINLESS.

WE'RE
DEALIN' WITH
HULKS, JUNIOR.
NOT LIKE WE'RE
INVADIN' A SLEEP
CLINIC.



SCOTT...?
THIS PLACE IS
BIGGER THAN THE
EMPIRE STATE
BUILDING.

I KNOW.
GET READY FOR
ANYTHING.



EACH POST
ABANDONED AS
THE REST.

SO...
IT'S JUST
RUNNING ON
AUTOPILOT?

HOW CAN
WE BE THE
ONLY ONES
HERE?



INTELLIGENCIA WAR ROOM.
ELSEWHERE ON THE HELLCARRIER.

WHAT IF OUR
BEING HERE IS ALL
CONNECTED?

DATING BACK TO
GENERAL ROSS'
DEATH.

WHEN THE
RED HULK KILLED
ROSS --

I HATH
A SCORE
TO SETTLE
WITH THE
RED HULK.

IF HE IS
RESPONSIBLE
FOR THIS
CALAMITY --

SHOOM

ENOW!

RASSA-
FRASSA-DING-
DANG-DING!

IT'S NO USE.
WE'RE LOOKING
AT SOME SORT OF
VIBRANIUM OR
ADAMANTIUM
ALLOY --

BANG AWAY,
HEROES.
FUEL YOUR
RAGE.

TRAPPED.
AND BY
THE TRAPSTER
NO LESS.

IT'S
TIME.

THE INTELLIGENCIA USED
THE CATHEXIS RAY TO BRING
ME INTO THE WORLD.

EXPERIMENTED WITH
RICK JONES AND
GOT THAT BLUE FREAK
A-BOMB OUT OF IT.

THEY HAD BANNER AS
THEIR POWER SOURCE BUT
I THREW IN A MONKEY
WRENCH WHEN I DRAINED
THE GREEN HULK
OUT OF HIM.

BANNER FIGURES THEY
THEN USED JEN WALTERS --
THE GREEN SHE-HULK --
TO CREATE THIS NEW
RED SHE-HULK.

YARRRGHHH

HEC 2

BUT FOR THE FINAL
STEP -- THE KEY
TO THE ENTIRE
BATTLE PLAN --

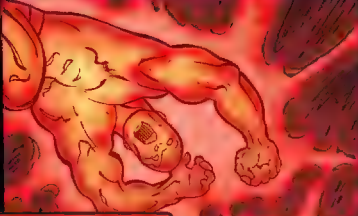
-- THEY'D NEED A
NEW POWER SOURCE.

SOMEONE WHO COULD
CREATE THEIR OWN
ARMY OF HULKS FROM
A.I.M. VOLUNTEERS.
A.I.M. MARINES.


I'VE BECOME
THE KEY
TO IT ALL.




WAS THAT THEIR
PLAY ALL ALONG?



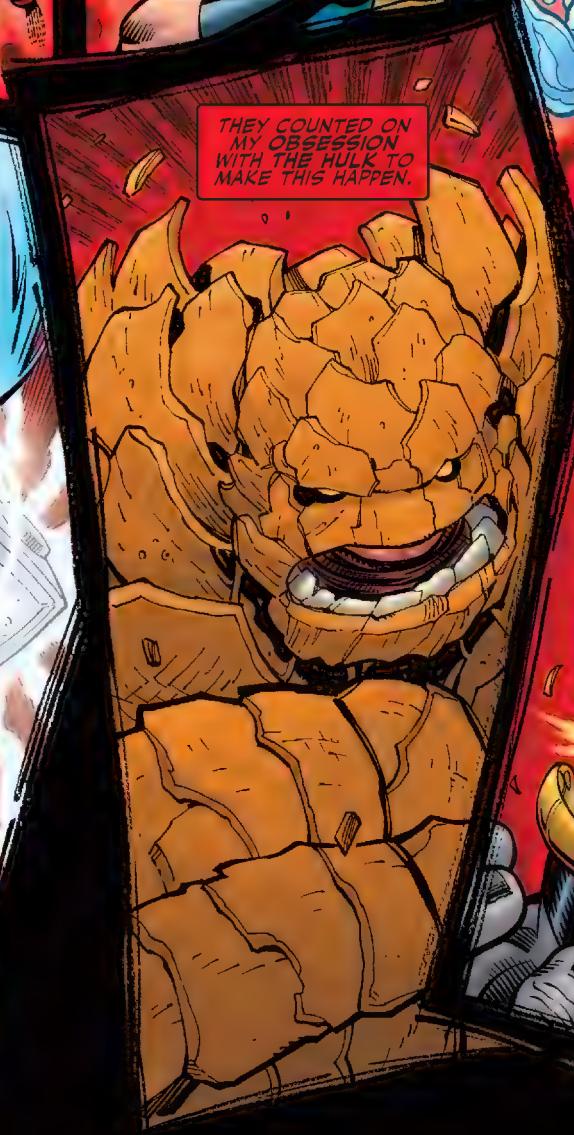
THEY ENCOURAGED MY
BATTLE AGAINST THOR.
THE SILVER SURFER.
EVEN THE WATCHER --
WAS I STORING MORE
AND MORE ENERGY
JUST FOR THIS?



EVEN BY DRAINING
BANNER, IT WORKED
IN THEIR FAVOR...



...IF THEY KNEW
THEY COULD GET
ME HERE TONIGHT.



THEY COUNTED ON
MY OBSESSION
WITH THE HULK TO
MAKE THIS HAPPEN.



BASIC MILITARY
STRATEGY.

KNOW YOUR
ENEMY.

AND I FELL
FOR IT.

STILL...THE
WAY THINGS
WORK IN WAR,
YOU HAVE
TO HAVE A
"PLAN B."

I WAS
LOOKING ALL
OVER FOR A BIG
ROCK I COULD
BUST OPEN THE
FISHY TANK
WITH --

-- AND
THERE WAS
ONE HERE WITH
GREEN HAIR
ALL OVER IT
ALREADY.

WHATEVER YOU
DO, DEADPOOL,
DON'T TAP ON
THAT GLASS!

AH, THE
OLD REVERSE
PSYCHOLOGY
GAME!

YOU WANT ME TO
TAP ON THE GLASS SO
YOU TELL ME *NOT* TO,
BUT BECAUSE I KNOW
YOU DO, I *MIGHT*, BUT
THEN AGAIN, I WANT
TO ANYWAY.

SO
I WON'T!
HA!

OOOO.
FISHY! HERE
FISHY-FISHY-
FISHY.

TAP
TAP
TAP

WHEN YOUR LIFE
HINGES ON WORKING
WITH SOMEONE
LIKE BANNER...

...IT'S AN
ABSOLUTE
NECESSITY.

DEADPOOL IS MY PLAN B.

M-MUST
GO...

DON'T...
THANNNNNKKKK...
MEEEEE...YET.

LOOK WHAT
YOU DID TO
HULKPOOL!



HULKPOOL
USE RED FOR
DOORKNOB.

DEADPOOL.

I DIDN'T
KNOW.

THEY
WANTED
TO CREATE
AN ARMY OF
HULKS --

-- BUT
NEVER BY
INVOLVING --

NO!

RED.

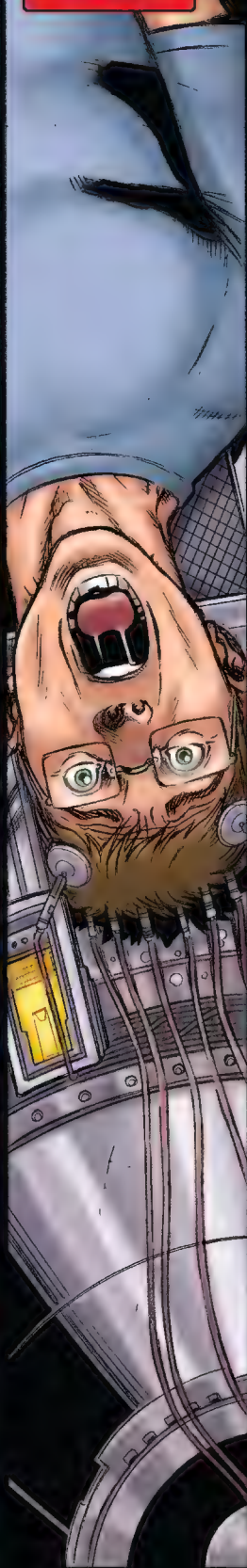


THOR SHALL
SMASH HULK!

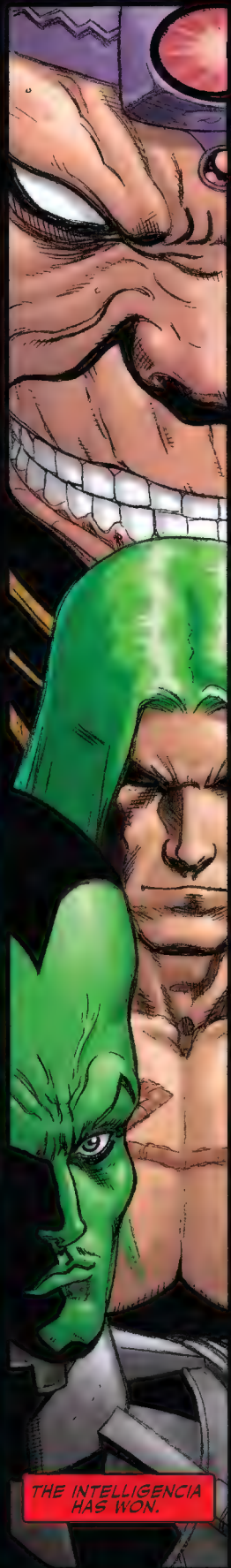
IT'S OVER.



I NEVER
SHOULD'VE PUT
MY FAITH
IN BANNER.



I MIGHT DIE, BUT
WORSE THAN THAT,
THIS COUNTRY --
WHICH I GAVE AN
OATH TO SERVE --
WILL FALL IN A
MILITARY COUP
THAT I DESIGNED.



THE INTELLIGENCIA
HAS WON.

ROUND ★ ELEVEN



DOGS OF WAR



ISSUE 22 COVER ★ ED MCGUINNESS, MARK FARMER & DAVE STEWART

ON BOARD THE HELLCARRIER,
HOME BASE OF THE INTELLIGENCIA--
OVER WASHINGTON, D.C.

VICTORY IS...
THEIRS.

EVEN THE COMBINED STRENGTH
OF EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES
COULDN'T STOP THEM.

ALL hulks
shall stay
BACK.

MY FORMER ALLIES--
THE INTELLIGENCIA--
HAVE TAKEN MY BATTLE
PLAN AND WON.

FASCINATING.

BASED
ON THEIR
PAST BATTLES,
INSTINCTIVELY,
THEY'VE MADE
THE RED HULK
THEIR ENEMY.

MY FAITH IN BANNER HAS
PROVEN WORTHLESS.
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT'S
HAPPENED TO HIM.

...BETTY...

HE WAS SUPPOSED
TO HAVE RESCUED
"THE EIGHT
SMARTEST MEN"
BY NOW.

ALL WHILE TWO
HUNDRED GAMMA-
RADIATED A.I.M.
SOLDIERS ARE
MARCHING ON THE
NATION'S CAPITAL.

AN UNSTOPPABLE
MILITARY COUP THAT
ONCE WOULD'VE LEFT
ME IN CHARGE.

SHOULD'VE
LEFT ME IN
CHARGE.

THE LEADER AND M.O.D.O.K. EXPOSED MEMBERS OF THE AVENGERS, THE FANTASTIC FOUR AND THE X-MEN TO A COMBINATION OF GAMMA AND COSMIC ENERGY.

THEY USED THE CATHEXIS RAY. IT DATES BACK TO THE ORIGIN OF DOC SAMSON.


thor shall
kill red hulk!

IT'S RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CREATION OF A-BOMB, THE RED SHE-HULK AND ME.

THE RED HULK.

I'M
NOT GOING
DOWN!





BANNER WOULD PRATTLE
ON ABOUT HOW THE HULK
WAS INSIDE US ALL.

THAT EACH OF US HAS AN
UNCONTROLLABLE RAGE
WAITING TO BREAK FREE.

I'VE BEEN
FIGHTING HULKS
LONGER THAN ANY
OF YOU.

AND I'VE BEATEN
EVERYONE HERE
BEFORE.

THE INTELLIGENCIA
FOUND A WAY TO
PROVE HIM RIGHT.

AND NOW THE WORLD'S
GREATEST HEROES
ARE PAYING THE PRICE.

Red hulk
stopped thor
once.

NEVER
AGAIN.

Red hulk
took thor's
hammer.

Feel it
now!

ARRRGH

THRASH

BREAK
RED hulk
APART.

MY ONLY HOPE IS THAT,
IF THE INTELLIGENCIA
HAS WON THE BATTLE...

TO
DEATH!

KERRAK KKK

GUUUUU

WHO
DARES STEAL
THIS MOMENT
FROM THOR?

STORM
DARES.

STORM
CONTROLS WIND
AND LIGHTNING
LIKE THOR.

THOR
IS GOD OF
THUNDER --

-- STORM
IS GODDESS OF
LIGHTNING!

THOR
SHALL
SMASH RED
HULK.
NOT
STORM.

... THEY HAVEN'T
WON THE WAR...



WHAT ABOUT THE REST OF YOU?

YOU GOING TO LET THOR HAVE ALL THE GLORY?

IS CAPTAIN AMERICA AFRAID TO TAKE ME ON?

ONE THING I'VE LEARNED FROM THIS EXPERIENCE...

IT MIGHT NOT BE "THE STRONGEST" THERE IS "WHO WINS..."

...BUT THE SMARTEST.

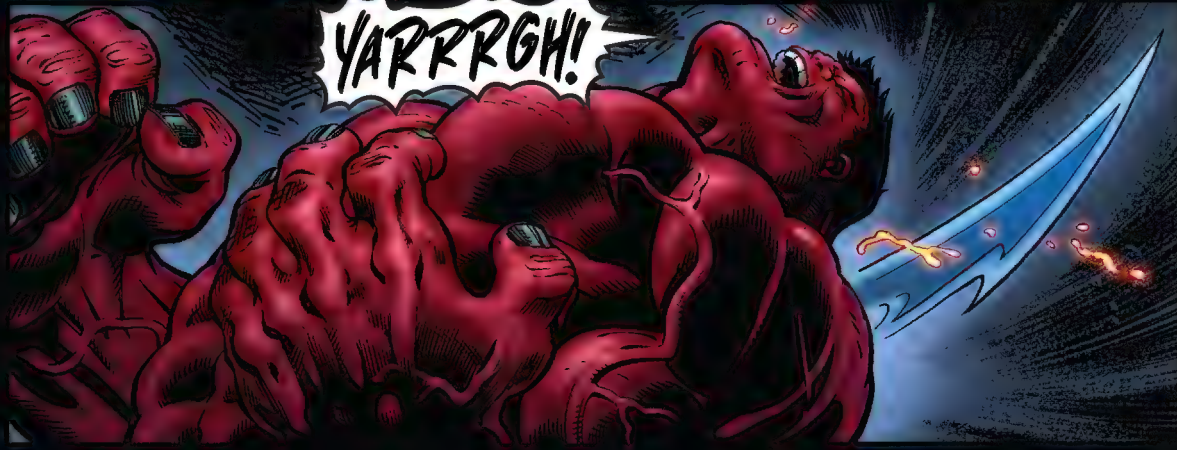


CAP NOT AFRAID OF ANYTHING!

MS. MARVEL SMASH RED HULK!



HOW 'BOUT I LEAVE YOU TWO ALONE TO WORK IT OUT?



YARRRGH!



RED HULK TOOK
REED RICHARDS --

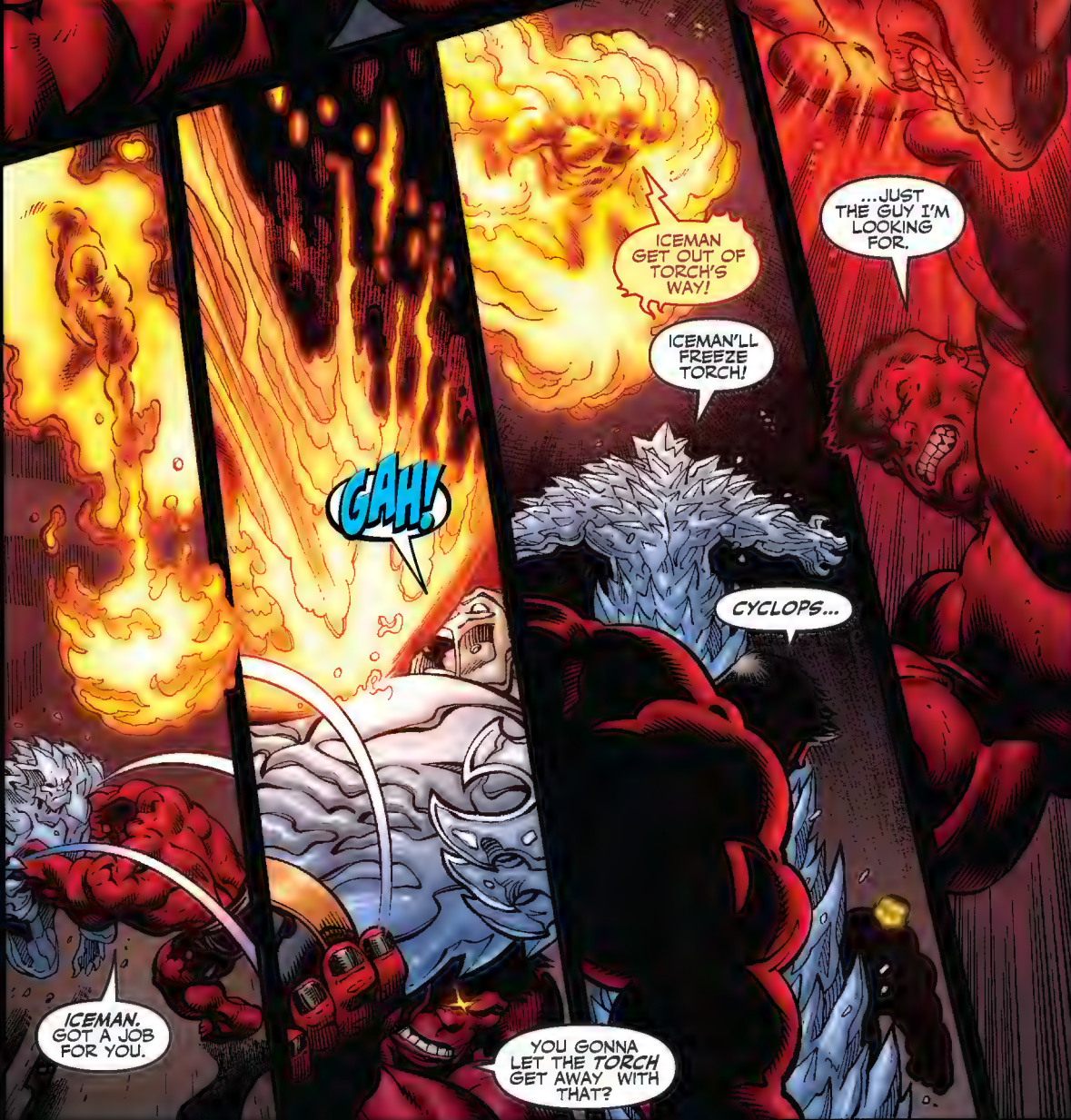
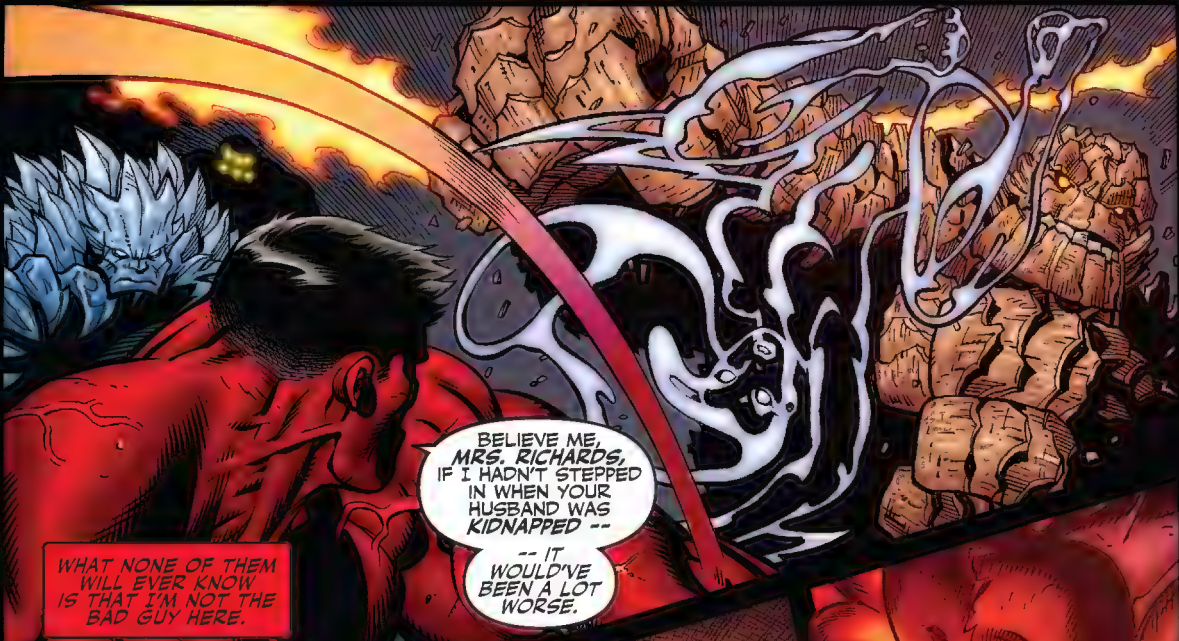
-- WE TAKE
RED HULK'S
LIFE.

RED HULK
CLOBBER
TIME!

IRRADIATING THE
HEROES WAS NEVER
PART OF MY WAR PLAN.

THE INTELLIGENCIA
PERVERTED MY IDEALS.

KILLING ANY HOPE I
HAD AT UNITING THIS
COUNTRY AND HEALING
THE DIVIDE THAT HAS
RIPPED US APART...





TIME
TO SHOW THEM
WHY THE WORLD
HATES AND FEARS
MUTANTS.



UNCANNY.

I WANTED TO
BE THE HERO.

I WANTED WHAT'S BEST
FOR THIS COUNTRY.

INSTEAD NOW THEY
SEE ME THE WAY
I'VE SEEN BANNER
ALL THESE YEARS...

...AS NOTHING MORE
THAN A MONSTER.



I'LL PROVE THEM WRONG.
I'M NOT BANNER.
I AM NOT A MONSTER...

LIGHTS
OUT.

HELLCARRIER WAR ROOM.

NO ONE SAID ANYTHING
ABOUT INCLUDING THE AVENGERS
OR THE OTHERS, STERNS.

NOT *EVERYTHING*
IS CLEARED WITH YOU, SAMSON.
SOME THINGS MIGHT BE BEYOND
YOUR UNDERSTANDING.

WARNING: SURVEILLANCE
CAMERAS OFF-LINE.
REROUTING.

WE
UNLEASHED THEIR
POTENTIAL. THEIR...
"INNER HULK"
AS IT WERE.

AND YOU
SAW WHAT IT
BROUGHT
ABOUT,
M.O.D.O.K.

THEY
DON'T HAVE
THE *INTELLECT*
TO CONTROL
THAT SORT
OF POWER.

IT'S LIKE
GIVING A NUCLEAR
WEAPON TO A CHILD.

UNLEASHED ON THE PUBLIC,
THEY ONLY FURTHER THE
NEED FOR US TO ACT
AS SAVIORS.

WHAT MAKES
YOU THINK WE *CAN*
STOP THEM?

WE WON'T
HAVE TO.
THEY'LL STOP
THEMSELVES.

HOW'S
THAT?

THAT LEVEL
OF EXPOSURE TO
COSMIC AND *GAMMA* RAYS
IS HIGHLY UNSTABLE.

IN A
MATTER OF
HOURS, THEY
ALL WILL
BE DEAD.

WE NEVER
COULD HAVE
DONE IT WITHOUT
YOU, SAMSON.

YOUR
CATHEXIS RAY
HAS PROVEN
INVALUABLE.

WITH IT,
WE WILL
CHANGE THE
WORLD.

AS MUCH AS
I HATE TO ADMIT IT,
BANNER IS THE KEY.

I ALLIED MYSELF
WITH HIM IN THE HOPES
HE COULD OUTTHINK
THE INTELLIGENCIA.



FROM DAY ONE, NOBODY'S HAD A
GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF
THE POWER OF GAMMA ENERGY.



I HATE HAVING TO
DEPEND ON ANYONE...

...LEAST OF ALL...

BANNER.



CAPTURED
WITH ALL THE
OTHER BIG
BRAINS --
-- TYPICAL
MILKSO--

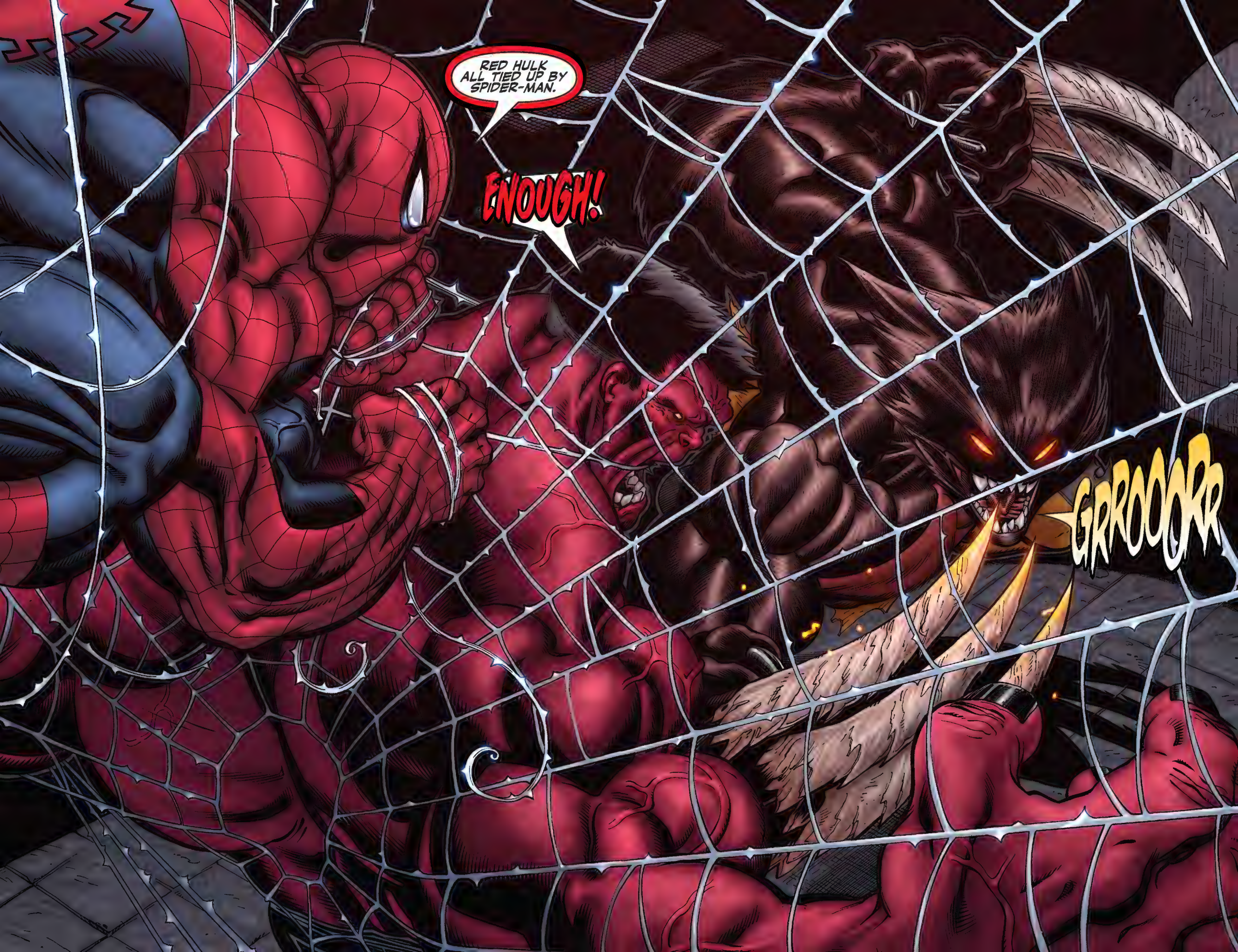


URRKK



BOO.





RED HULK
ALL TIED UP BY
SPIDER-MAN.

ENOUGH!

GRROOORR



I'VE BEEN
DRAINED, GUTTED,
STRANGLER --

BODY TEMP IS SOARING.
COMES WITH MY RAGE.

-- BUT NONE
OF YOU HAS WHAT
IT TAKES TO
STOP ME!

HAVE TO USE IT
TO MY ADVANTAGE.

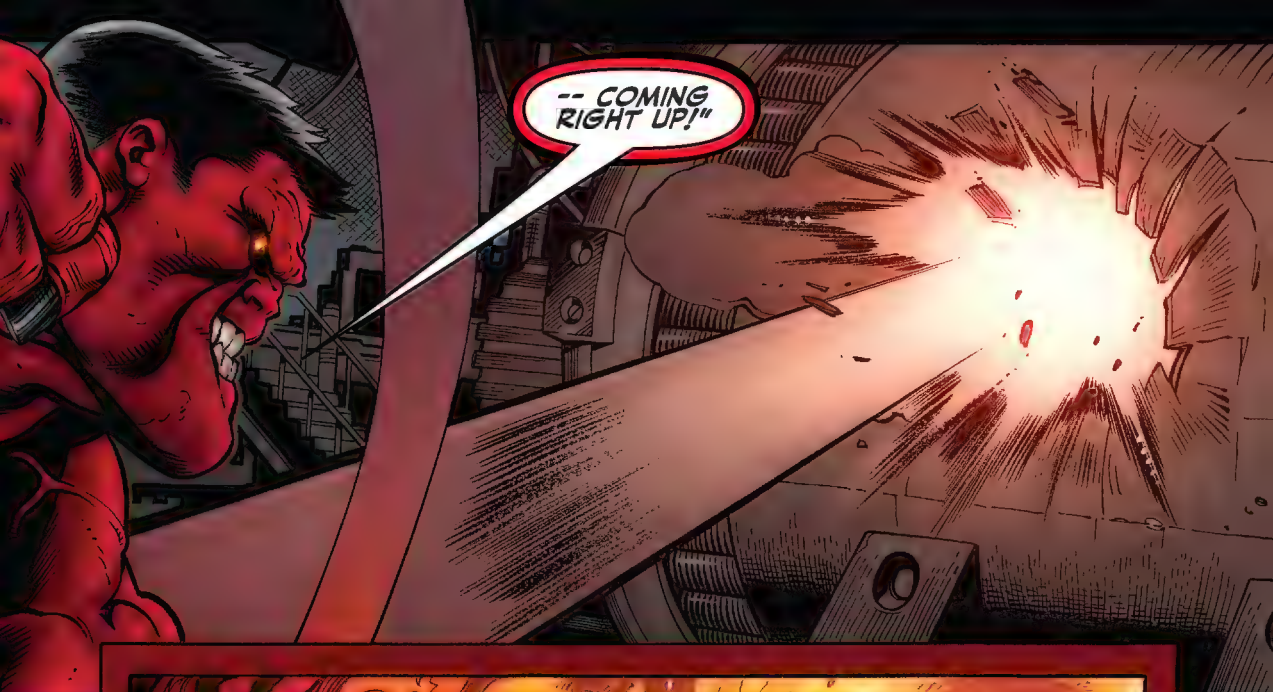
BRAK

DON'T KNOW
HOW MUCH OF THIS
YOU'LL UNDERSTAND
IN THIS STATE,
WOLVERINE.

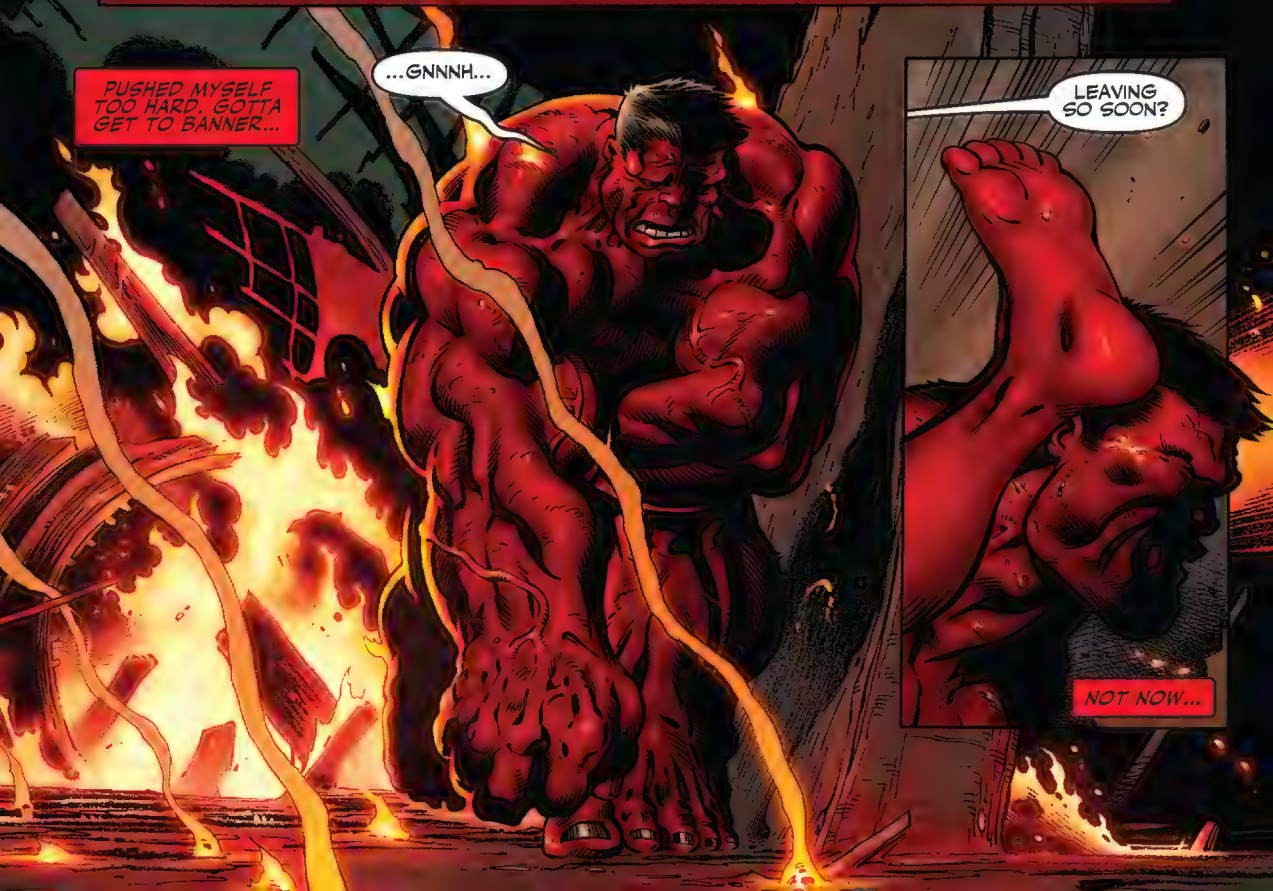
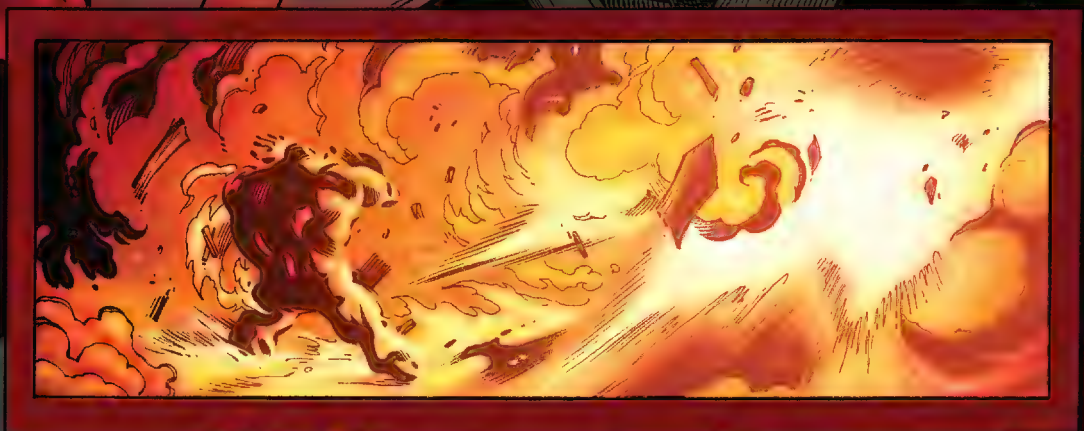
BUT, I'VE
READ THE *S.H.I.E.L.D.*
FILES ON YOU. PRETTY
EXTENSIVE STUFF.

'ONE
FASTBALL
SPECIAL --

THEY EVEN
HAVE THAT DANDY
CATCH PHRASE
YOU LIKE.

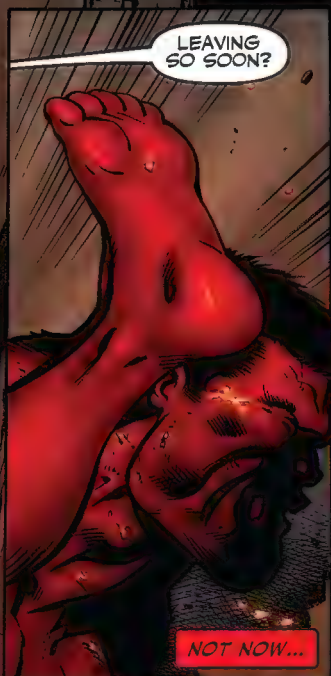


-- COMING RIGHT UP!



PUSHED MYSELF TOO HARD. GOTTA GET TO BANNER...

...GNNNH...



LEAVING SO SOON?

NOT NOW...

NOT HER.

WE
TOOK A
VOTE.
IT'S
TIME FOR
YOU TO
DIE.





WE AGREED THIS WAS NEVER TO HAPPEN.

YOU KNOW THAT HER PSYCHE IS TOO FRAGILE.

IF SHE WERE TO ACTUALLY MURDER HIM...

YOU'VE WANTED HIS DEATH ALL ALONG. NOW YOU CAN HAVE IT.

I DON'T GIVE A DAMN WHAT HAPPENS TO HER.



YOU'RE LYING. YOU *CREATED* HER. SHE WAS THE *ONE* PROJECT YOU ACTUALLY KEPT US ALL FROM INTERFERING WITH, SO UNLESS...

...YOU HAVE FEELINGS FOR HER.

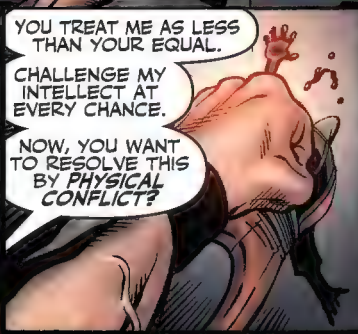
YOU'VE FALLEN IN LOVE WITH YOUR OWN MONSTER AND SHE'S SPURNED YOU.

YOU'RE NOTHING MORE TO HER THAN A PATHETIC CUCKOLD.

I'LL BREAK EVERY BONE IN YOUR BODY.



NO ONE SPEAKS TO ME THIS WAY.



YOU TREAT ME AS LESS THAN YOUR EQUAL.

CHALLENGE MY INTELLECT AT EVERY CHANCE.

NOW, YOU WANT TO RESOLVE THIS BY PHYSICAL CONFLICT?



M.O.D.O.K. DO WHAT YOU WERE DESIGNED FOR.

KILL HIM.



YOU WERE WARNED.



ALWAYS FANCED YOURSELF THE HERO, LEONARD.

AND LOOK WHERE THAT HAS GOTTEN YOU...

GRRNARRR

WOKE
YOURSELF OUT,
DIDN'T YOU?

EVER SINCE
SHE FIRST
APPEARED, I'VE
WONDERED
ABOUT WHO
SHE IS.

WHO DID THE
LEADER AND
M.O.D.O.K.
IRRADIATE
TO CREATE
THIS ONE?

THAT
MASSIVE EGO
OF YOURS
THINKING
YOU COULD
TAKE ON THE
WORLD.

IT'S THE
ONE THING THE
GREEN HULK HAS
OVER YOU.

THE
MADDER
HE GETS, THE
STRONGER
HE GETS.

BUT NOT
YOU...

... YOU
BUILD UP ALL
THAT ENERGY
LIKE A REACTOR.
BUT WITHOUT
A COOLING
SYSTEM --

MAYBE IT WAS HER SKIN.
OR HER EYES.

OR HER
ATTITUDE.

-- YOUR BODY
OVERHEATS.

THE DISTURBING NOTION
THAT I SEE SOMETHING
OF MYSELF IN HER...



LET ME
DRAW OFF SOME
OF THAT EXCESS
ENERGY.

I'VE SPENT MY CAREER
WORKING TO MAKE THE
WORLD A BETTER PLACE.



THAT'S
THE SORT
OF THING
YOU'D DO.

TRYING TO KEEP US
SAFE FROM MONSTERS
LIKE THE HULK.

ON SECOND
THOUGHT...
I'LL JUST TAKE
IT ALL.

IF I'M RESPONSIBLE
FOR HER CREATION...

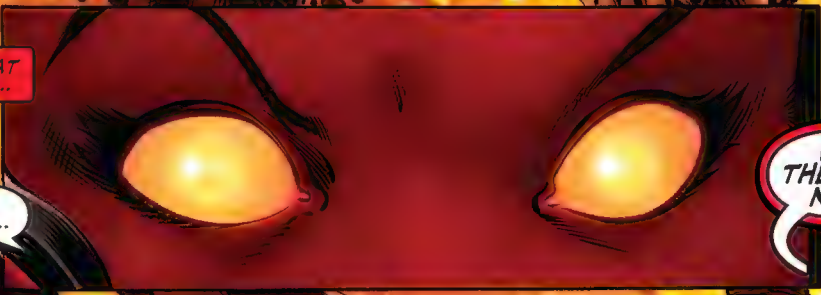
...IF MY DEALING WITH
THE INTELLIGENCIA
DESTROYED THE ONLY
PERSON I'VE EVER
TRULY CARED ABOUT...



DO IT
THEN!
TAKE MY
LIFE!

THEN ALL I AM IS WHAT
I'VE ALWAYS FEARED...

I...I
CAN'T...



WHY
THE HELL
NOT?



I WAS GENERAL THUNDERBOLT ROSS.
I BECAME THE VERY THING I HATED
MOST IN LIFE.

I AM THE
RED HULK.

-- BECAUSE
YOU'RE MY
FATHER.

...BETTY...?

AND FOR ALL
I'VE DONE...

...I DESERVE
TO DIE...

ROUND ★ TWELVE



WHO IS THE RED HULK?



EVZKIO!

ISSUE 23 COVER ★ ED McGUINNESS, MARK FARMER & DAVE STEWART

**SEVERIN AIR SHOW
OVER GARY, INDIANA
YEARS AGO.**

THEY SAY YOU
ONLY DIE ONCE.

THAT'S
A LIE.

I WAS TEN WHEN
I FIRST FLEW SOLO.

THIRTEEN WHEN I DID
MY FIRST AERIAL SHOW.

IN THE SUMMER OF
MY SIXTEENTH YEAR,
I WAS DOING THREE
TOWNS A DAY. FOUR, IF
I FELT LIKE CROSSING
THE STATE LINE.

WHEN I WORE A FOOTBALL
HELMET FOR THEIR LOCAL TEAM,
I'D SCRAPE UP ANOTHER
COUPLE OF BUCKS IN TIPS.

DON'T LET THEM TELL YOU OTHERWISE.
MOST FOLKS DON'T PAY TO SEE YOU FLY --

-- THEY PAY TO
SEE YOU CRASH.

I GAVE THEM
THEIR MONEY'S
WORTH THAT DAY.

THEY PULLED
ME OUT OF THE
BI-PLANE WRECK.

AND I WAS
PRONOUNCED
DEAD THERE ON
THE SPOT BY THE
CARNIVAL DOCTOR.

IMAGINE THEIR
SURPRISE WHEN
MY EYES OPENED
IN THE REAR OF
THE AMBULANCE.

...BANNER...

**THE HELLCARRIER.
HOMEBASE OF THE INTELLIGENCIA.
OVER WASHINGTON, D.C.
TONIGHT.**

I'D BROKEN MY BACK
IN THREE PLACES.

TOLD I WOULD
NEVER WALK AGAIN.

...HAVE
TO FIND...

...THAT
BLASTED
MILKSOP...

SPENT NEARLY A
YEAR IN A BODY CAST.
THEN BRACES.
THEN CRUTCHES.

I MADE MYSELF
WALK AGAIN...

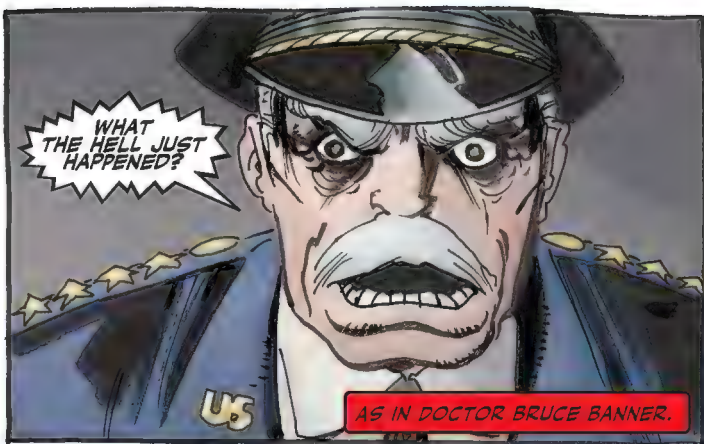
**HULK
SMASH!**



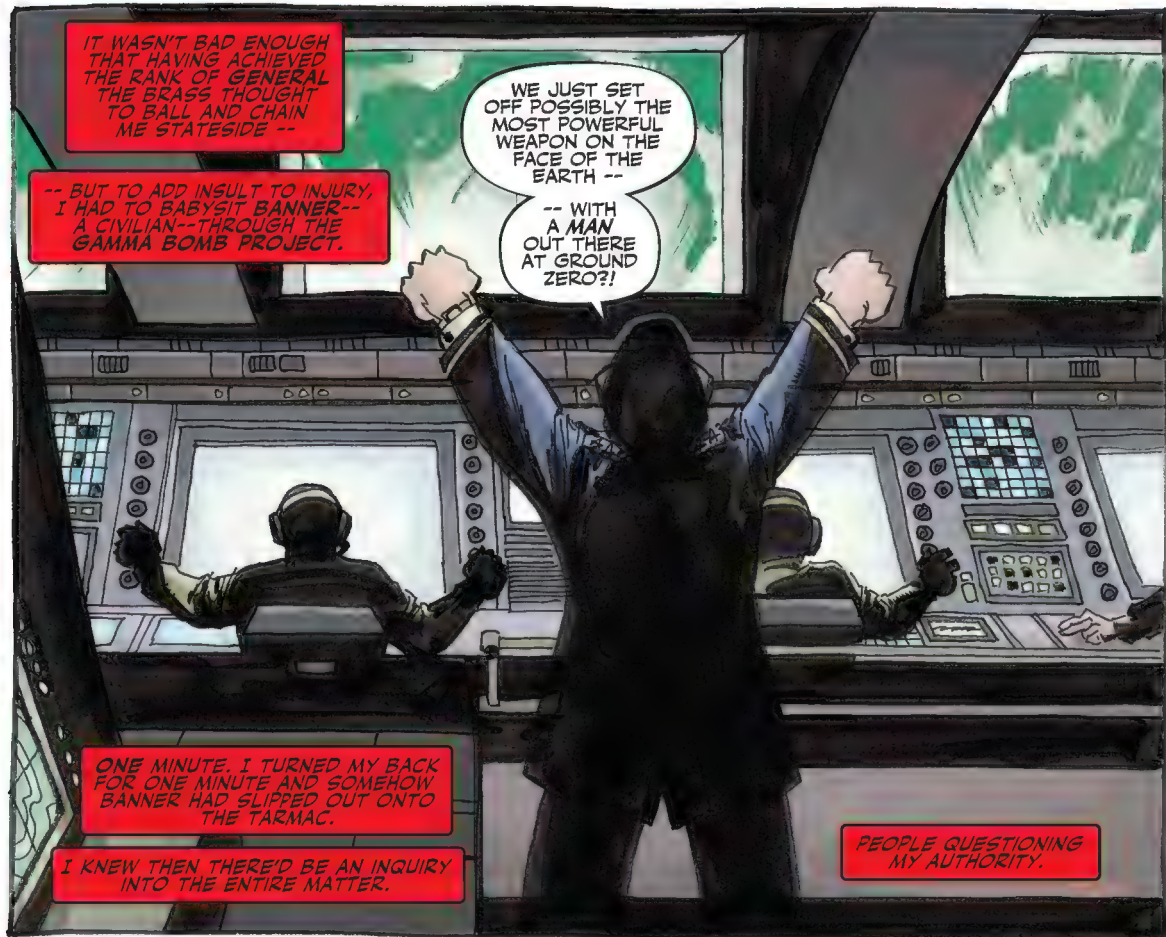
GOT
TO FIND
BANNER.



THE EXPERIENCE LEFT ME WITH A HEALTHY DISRESPECT FOR ANYONE WITH A "DR." IN FRONT OF THEIR NAME.



AS IN DOCTOR BRUCE BANNER.



IT WASN'T BAD ENOUGH THAT HAVING ACHIEVED THE RANK OF GENERAL THE BRASS THOUGHT TO BALL AND CHAIN ME STATESIDE --

-- BUT TO ADD INSULT TO INJURY, I HAD TO BABYSIT BANNER-- A CIVILIAN--THROUGH THE GAMMA BOMB PROJECT.

WE JUST SET OFF POSSIBLY THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPON ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH --

-- WITH A MAN OUT THERE AT GROUND ZERO?!

ONE MINUTE, I TURNED MY BACK FOR ONE MINUTE AND SOMEHOW BANNER HAD SLIPPED OUT ONTO THE TARMAC.

I KNEW THEN THERE'D BE AN INQUIRY INTO THE ENTIRE MATTER.

PEOPLE QUESTIONING MY AUTHORITY.



THE SECOND WE HAVE THE ALL CLEAR --

-- I WANT EVERY AVAILABLE MAN OUT THERE LOOKING FOR BANNER.

DADDY...?

WHAT'S HAPPENED?

WHERE'S BRUCE?

THE TRUTH COULD NEVER COME OUT. I'D BEEN DISTRACTED BECAUSE OF MY OWN INDULGENCE.



BETTY SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN THERE.

ALL I HAD TO DO
WAS FIND HIM.
I'D BE ABLE TO
CORRAL THE WHOLE
THING BACK UNDER
MY COMMAND.

BUT IT WASN'T
BANNER WHO
TURNED UP.

IT WAS THE
MONSTER.

THE HULK.

ROSS
BAD.

HOW THE
DEVIL DO YOU
KNOW MY
NAME?

WE HAD NO IDEA
THAT BANNER
WAS THE HULK
BACK THEN.

AT MY HOME,
IN FRONT OF
MY MEN, WITH
MY DAUGHTER.

HE SPOKE TO
ME WITH SUCH
DISRESPECT.





LEAVE
HULK
ALONE.



BAH.

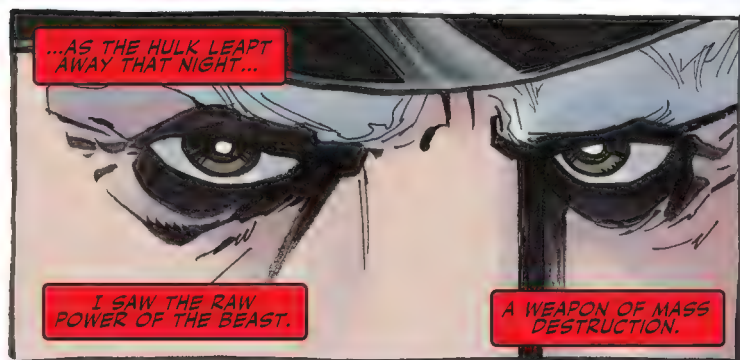
YOU'D
BETTER
RUN.

COME
INTO MY
YARD.

HURT MY
MEN --

I NEVER ADMITTED THIS
TO ANYONE--NOT TO
ANY MILITARY TRIBUNAL --

-- OR EVEN TO
MY DAUGHTER...



...AS THE HULK LEAPT
AWAY THAT NIGHT...

I SAW THE RAW
POWER OF THE BEAST.

A WEAPON OF MASS
DESTRUCTION.



AND I
COVETED IT.

THE HELLCARRIER.

SMASH!

GO :KOFF:
AHEAD. I'M NOT
AFRAID OF THE
REAL HULK --
-- I'M NOT
GOING TO BE :KOFF:
INTIMIDATED BY
SOME MECHANICAL
KNOCK-OFF.

IT'S ALWAYS
BEEN ABOUT
"THE STRONGEST
THERE IS."

AGGGGGHHHH

IT COMES FROM
GROWING UP IN
THE MILITARY.
INSTILLED IN ME BY
MY FATHER AND
GRANDFATHER.

MIGHT DOES
MAKE RIGHT.

...URRRGGLL...

IT'S THE
AMERICAN WAY.

NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES --
HOW MANY WEAPONS -- THE HULK
WOULD TRIUMPH OVER AND OVER.

ROSS!

ROSS!

HULK
JUST WANTS
TO BE LEFT
ALONE!

ROSS!

MAKING ME
LOOK FOOLISH.

AND
THE UNITED STATES
CANNOT AFFORD
TO LOOK FOOLISH.

**HULKBUSTER BASE.
GAMMA PRISON FACILITY.
IN THE PAST.**

MAYBE THAT'S
WHAT NOBODY COULD
UNDERSTAND.

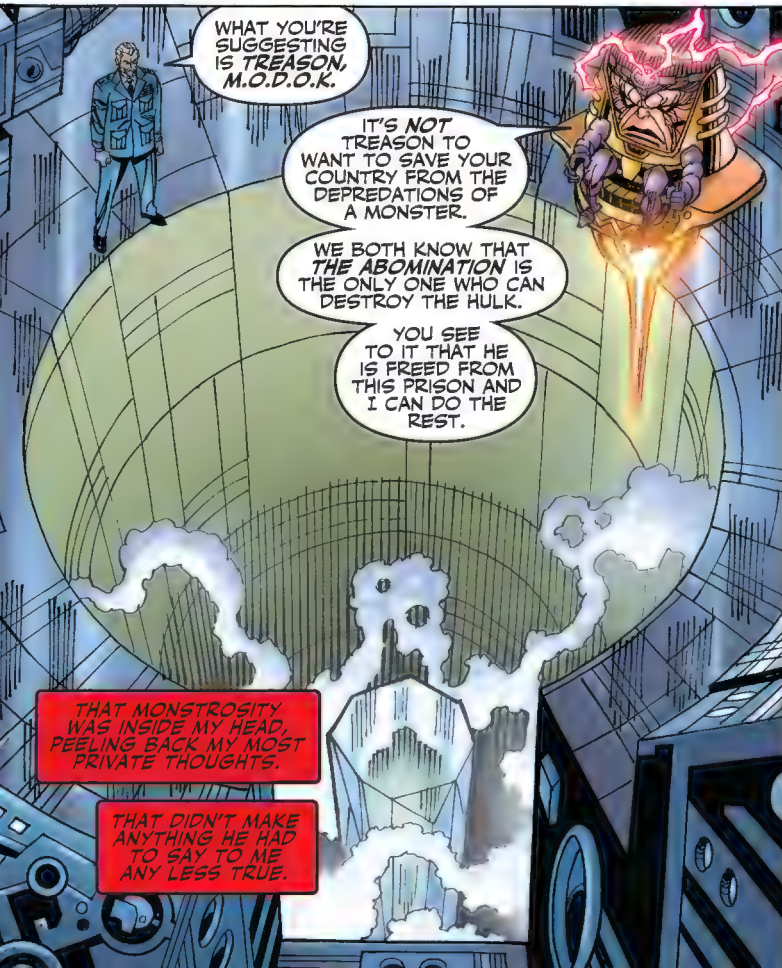
WHILE IT BECAME VERY
PERSONAL BETWEEN
THE HULK AND I...

...EVERYTHING I
EVER DID WAS FOR THE
GOOD OF THE COUNTRY.

MY INITIAL
MIND-PROBE
INDICATED TO ME THAT
WE TWO SHARE A
COMMON GOAL,
GENERAL.

EVEN MY
FIRST ALLIANCE
WITH THAT...

M.O.D.O.K.



WHAT YOU'RE
SUGGESTING
IS TREASON,
M.O.D.O.K.

IT'S NOT
TREASON TO
WANT TO SAVE YOUR
COUNTRY FROM THE
DEPREDACTIONS OF
A MONSTER.

WE BOTH KNOW THAT
THE ABOMINATION IS
THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN
DESTROY THE HULK.

YOU SEE
TO IT THAT HE
IS FREED FROM
THIS PRISON AND
I CAN DO THE
REST.

THAT MONSTROSITY
WAS INSIDE MY HEAD,
PEELING BACK MY MOST
PRIVATE THOUGHTS.

THAT DIDN'T MAKE
ANYTHING HE HAD
TO SAY TO ME
ANY LESS TRUE.



ALL
RIGHT.
I
WILL.

IT TURNED OUT
THE ABOMINATION FARED
NO BETTER AGAINST
THE HULK THAN ANY
OF MY OTHER PLANS.

WORSE, I WOUND UP
PUTTING MY DAUGHTER
IN HARM'S WAY.

GET DOWN, BETTY!
EVEN THE ABOMINATION
DOESN'T HAVE WHAT IT
TAKES TO ELIMINATE
THE HULK.

WEREN'T
YOU IN CHARGE
OF KEEPING HIM
LOCKED AWAY?
HOW COULDN'T HE
GOTTEN FREE
UNLESS...



YOU FINALLY DID IT,
DADDY. YOU CROSSED
THE LINE.

YOU
ARRANGED ALL
OF THIS.

YOU LET
YOUR PERSONAL
OBSESSION BLIND
YOU TO WHO THE
REAL MENACE
IS -- YOU.

IT'S
NOT LIKE THAT.
I CAN ASSURE
YOU --

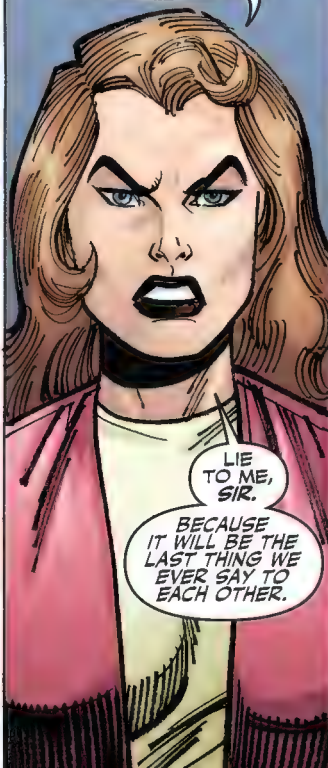


GO AHEAD. TELL ME
YOU DIDN'T BETRAY
YOUR DUTY.

TELL
ME YOU DIDN'T
COMMIT TREASON
IN THE HOPES OF
WHAT YOU SEE AS THE
GREATER GOOD.

LIE
TO ME,
SIR.

BECAUSE
IT WILL BE THE
LAST THING WE
EVER SAY TO
EACH OTHER.



IT WAS AT THAT MOMENT
I DISCOVERED THE ONE THING
I HOPED TO SEE ONE DAY --

-- THERE WAS
SOMETHING OF MYSELF
IN MY LITTLE GIRL.



AND I HATED IT...

GENERAL ROSS' OFFICE.
THE PENTAGON.
WASHINGTON, D.C.
IN THE PAST:



I'D LOST MY DAUGHTER.
THE ONLY FAMILY I HAD.

I BETRAYED
MY COUNTRY, THE ONLY
THING I TRULY BELIEVED IN.

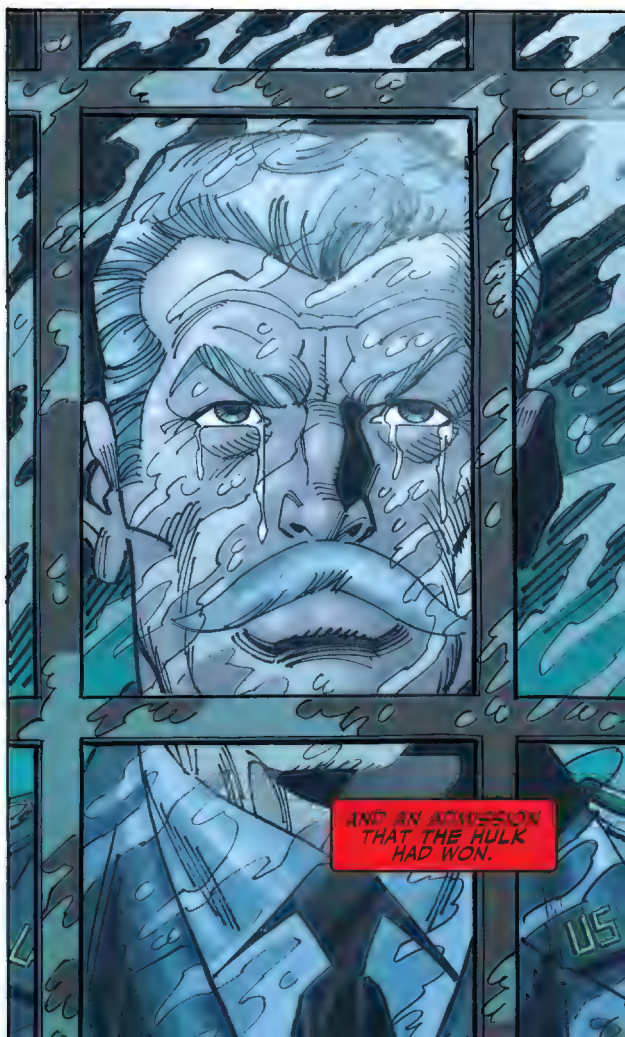
I HAD ACTUALLY
FALLEN SO FAR
THERE WAS
NOTHING LEFT
TO LIVE FOR.



BUT...I
COULDN'T DO IT.



I KNEW THAT SUICIDE
WAS NOTHING MORE THAN
A COWARD'S WAY OUT.



AND AN ADMISSION
THAT THE HULK
HAD WON.

THE HELLCARRIER.

THE TREASON
CHARGES WERE
NEVER FILED.



I TOLD
YOU I WASN'T
AFRAID OF
YOU.

HUHN.

BEHIND THE SCENES,
EXPERT TESTIMONY FROM
DR. LEONARD SAMSON
OFFERED THAT MY
IRRATIONAL BEHAVIOR WAS
DUE TO M.O.D.O.K.'S
MIND PROBE.

NO ONE, INCLUDING
MYSELF, KNEW THAT
SAMSON WAS ALREADY IN
M.O.D.O.K.'S POCKET.



GAH.

I'M
NOT AFRAID
OF --



-- ANYONE!

ARGHHHHA

IT WAS A DEBT I'D PAY
AT A LATER DATE...

**HULKBUSTER BASE.
NEW MEXICO FACILITY.
IN THE PAST.**

BUT FOR WHAT
I HAD DONE...
THE CHOICES I
MADE... I HAD TO
WIN BACK THE
RESPECT OF
MY COUNTRY...

...AND THE LOVE
OF MY DAUGHTER.

DAD,
SHHH...DON'T
TRY TO TALK.
YOU'RE HURT
TOO BADLY.

NO... I
HAVE TO SAY
THIS NOW...

I HAD
TO DO WHAT
I COULD...
TO BRING
YOU BACK
TO ME.

SOME TIME AFTER SHE HAD
WALKED OUT ON ME, BETTY
WAS IN JEOPARDY. I SEIZED
THE OPPORTUNITY AND DID
WHAT ANY GOOD SOLDIER...

...AND FATHER
WOULD DO...

I SACRIFICED
MY OWN LIFE
TO SAVE HERS.

NOW I
KNOW IT WASN'T
THE HULK OR
BANNER WHO
CAME BETWEEN
US...

...JUST MY OWN
UNREASONING
HATRED...

I HAVEN'T
EVER SAID THE
WORDS, BUT YOU
NEED TO HEAR IT
FROM ME...

...I...
LOVE...
YOU...

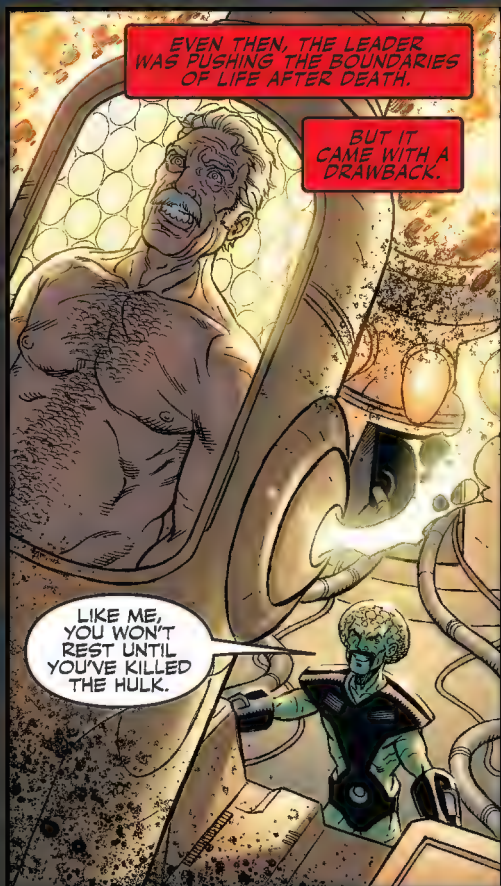
IT WOULD'VE
BEEN A GOOD
DEATH...



I HAVE
PLANS FOR
YOU, ROSS.

IT WAS THE LEADER
WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE
FOR BRINGING ME BACK.

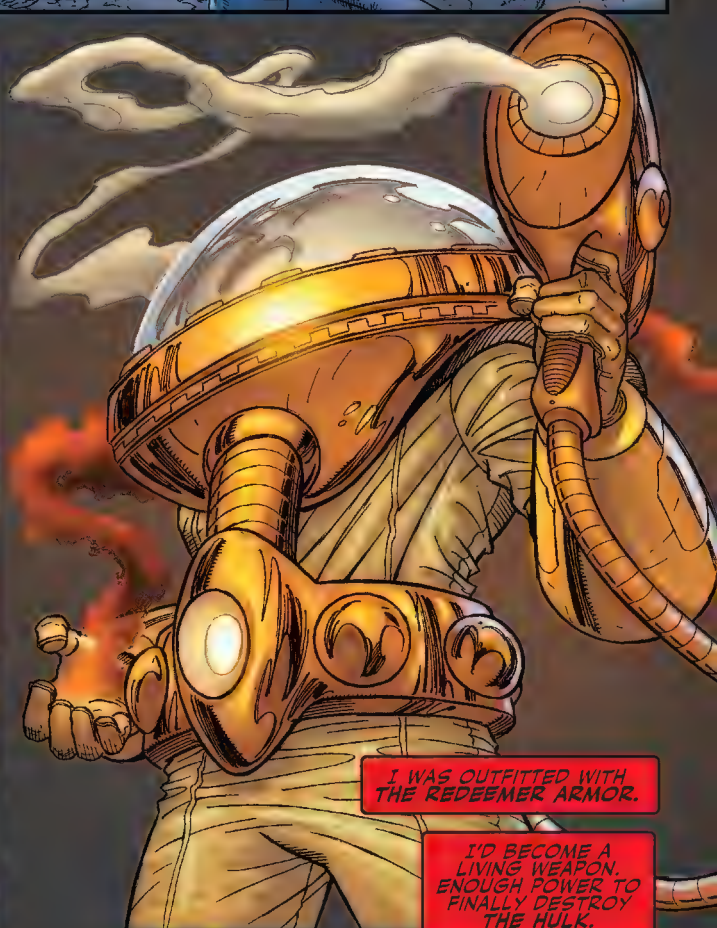
ONCE AGAIN, MY WORLD
AND THE HULK'S TIED
IRREVOCABLY TOGETHER.



EVEN THEN, THE LEADER
WAS PUSHING THE BOUNDARIES
OF LIFE AFTER DEATH.

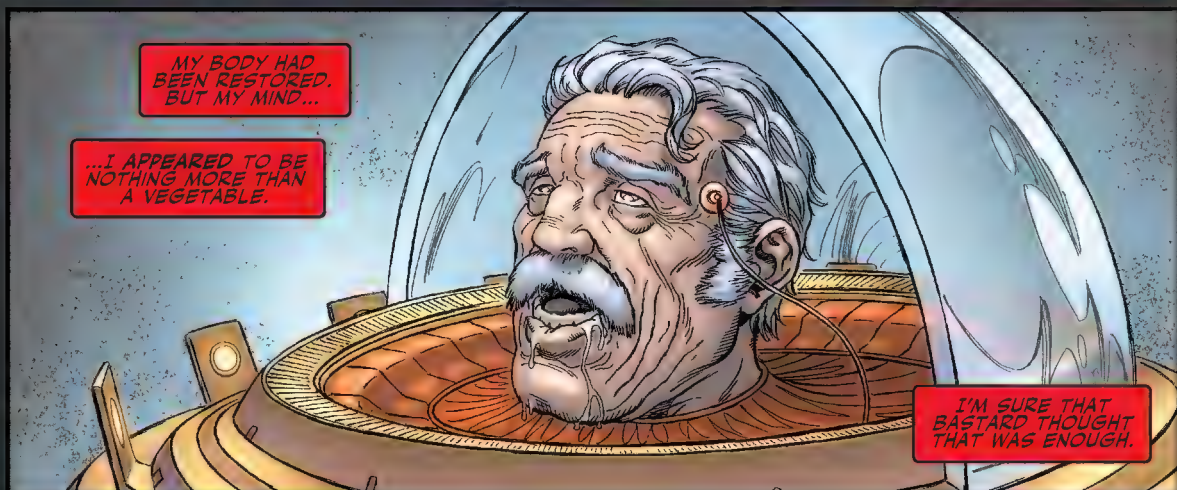
BUT IT
CAME WITH A
DRAWBACK.

LIKE ME,
YOU WON'T
REST UNTIL
YOU'VE KILLED
THE HULK.



I WAS OUTFITTED WITH
THE REDEEMER ARMOR.

I'D BECOME A
LIVING WEAPON.
ENOUGH POWER TO
FINALLY DESTROY
THE HULK.



MY BODY HAD
BEEN RESTORED.
BUT MY MIND...

...I APPEARED TO BE
NOTHING MORE THAN
A VEGETABLE.

I'M SURE THAT
BASTARD THOUGHT
THAT WAS ENOUGH.



WHO'S
HIDING IN
THERE?

WHAT THE LEADER
DIDN'T KNOW...WHAT
NO ONE KNEW...

...WAS THAT
MY MIND WAS
WORKING.

TRAPPED WITHOUT
THE ABILITY TO
SPEAK OR FUNCTION
ON MY OWN.

ROSS?!

WHAT HAS
THE LEADER
DONE TO
YOU?

I'D SEEN IT IN BATTLE.
SOLDIERS WHO WERE
AWAKE -- ALIVE -- BUT
SO BADLY DAMAGED THEY
COULDN'T SHOW US.

DON'T
YOU KNOW
THIS HAS TO
STOP!

ALL THAT POWER.

I REMEMBER THINKING
IF ONLY I COULD BE IN
CONTROL OF MY FACULTIES.

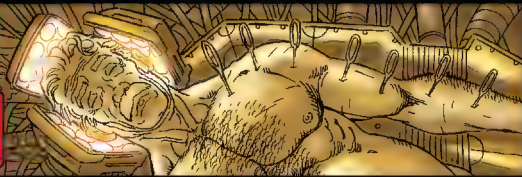
IF ONLY...

IT WAS NEVER
GOING TO STOP.

DEATH WOULD
BE DENIED
TO ME AGAIN.

AN ALIEN RACE KNOWN AS
THE TROYJAN BEEFED UP
THE LEADER'S TECHNOLOGY.

AS UNLIKELY AS IT SEEMS,
THEY USED ME AS BAIT TO
BRING THEM THE HULK.



WHILE IT
ENDED BADLY
FOR THEM...

I WAS
REBORN.

**GENERAL ROSS' OFFICE,
THE PENTAGON,
WASHINGTON, D.C.
IN THE PAST.**

WELL, JUST
GOING TO **STAND**
THERE, YOUNG
LADY?

OR ARE YOU
GOING TO GIVE
YOUR FATHER
A **HUG?**



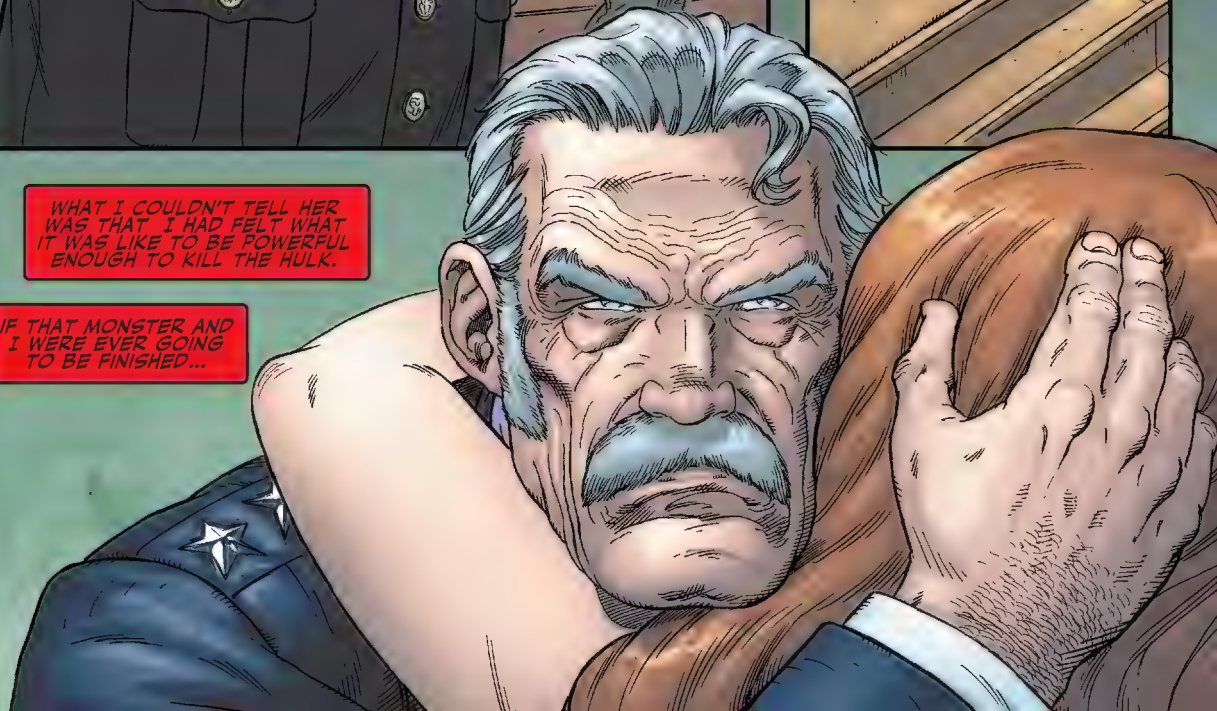
WHAT I COULDN'T TELL HER
WAS THAT I HAD FELT WHAT
IT WAS LIKE TO BE POWERFUL
ENOUGH TO KILL THE HULK.

IF THAT MONSTER AND
I WERE EVER GOING
TO BE FINISHED...

I WAS GIVEN ANOTHER
OPPORTUNITY WITH BETTY.

ALL I WANT
IS FOR YOU AND
BRUCE TO LIVE
**HAPPILY EVER
AFTER.**

IF ANYONE
DESERVES IT...
IT'S YOU.



...I HAD TO BE THE ONE
TO DESTROY THE HULK.

THIS
ENDS
NOW!

RAARRCH--
SKREEE--



NEW MEXICO. THE RECENT PAST.

EVEN THOUGH I THOUGHT
I'D BEEN GIVEN A SECOND
CHANCE, I WATCHED AS MY
WORLD UNRAVELED.

THE ABOMINATION
MURDERED MY
DAUGHTER.

...NO...

DEEP IN SPACE.

THE HULK WAS BETRAYED
BY SO-CALLED HEROES
AND FRIENDS AND ROCKETED
INTO OUTER SPACE.

STUPID
PUNY
HUMANS!

WASHINGTON, D.C.

I'D BECOME A
FATHER WITHOUT
A CHILD...

...A GENERAL
WITHOUT A WAR...

...A MAN WITHOUT
A PURPOSE...
AND THEN...

HE WAS OUR ONE TRUE PATRIOT. SOMEONE MY GRANDFATHER, MY FATHER AND I ALL COULD LOOK UP TO.

THIS ENTIRE COUNTRY IS GOING TO HELL.

PLAYING THAT DAMN THING OVER AND OVER. DOESN'T ANYONE KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT RESPECT ANYMORE?

VIEWERS ARE WARNED THAT THESE IMAGES ARE QUITE DISTURBING. BUT CAPTAIN AMERICA HAS BEEN --

CAP WAS THE GREA --

THEY'VE ALL BEEN...
TURNED OFF FOR THE
MOMENT.

-- EVERYONE...!

WE WANTED
TO HAVE A *PRIVATE*
CONVERSATION AND
THIS SEEMED TO BE
THE MOST EFFICIENT
WAY --

-- GIVEN
YOU HARDLY LEAVE
THE PENTAGON
THESE DAYS.

WE HAVE
A PROPOSAL
FOR YOU.

DESPITE HOW
YOU MIGHT SEE US,
WE ARE IN AGREEMENT
ON ONE THING:

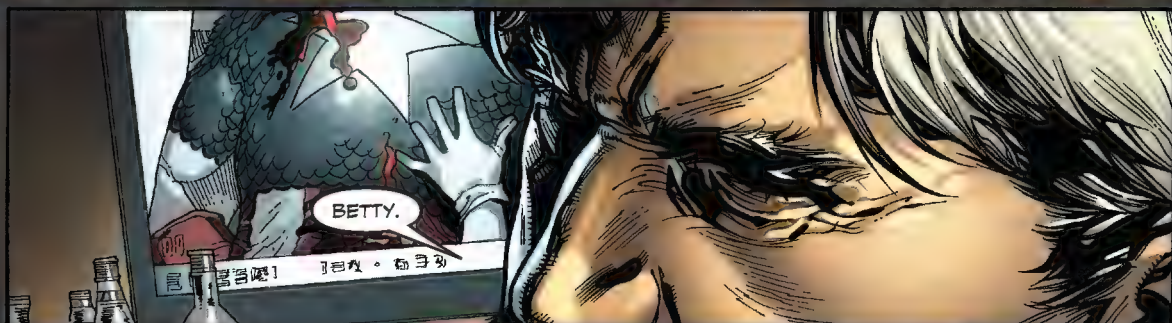
THIS
COUNTRY IS
BROKEN.

WHAT IF
WE WERE ABLE
TO GIVE YOU
THE TOOLS TO
FIX IT --

-- AND
MADE CERTAIN
THAT YOU WERE
IN CHARGE.

WHY,
IN GOD'S
NAME, WOULD
I TRUST
EITHER OF
YOU?





**NEW YORK CITY.
THE RECENT PAST.**

THE HULK RETURNED.
JUST LIKE THEY SAID.
JUST LIKE I KNEW...

THE MONSTER
DECLARED WAR ON
THIS COUNTRY.

WHY
DON'T YOU DIE
ALREADY?!

GAAAAAAA

AFTER BETTY.
AND THEN CAP.
NOW THIS...

...I MADE A DECISION
IN ORDER TO BRING
ABOUT A BETTER WORLD.



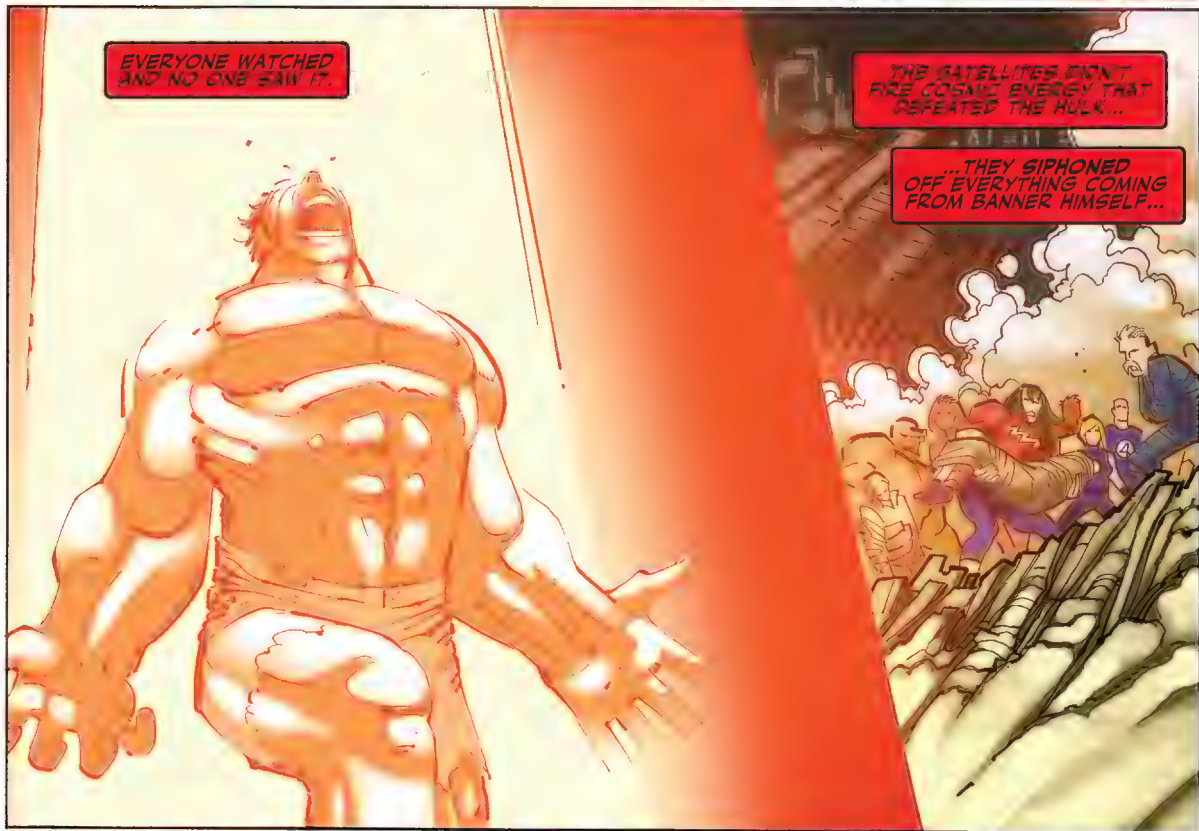
THE SATELLITES THAT BROUGHT DOWN THE HULK HAD BEEN COMPROMISED.



THE INTELLIGENCIA HAD MONITORED THE ENTIRE BATTLE.



OUTLIVIN'G TONY STARK WHEN HE TRIGGERED THE BEAMS.



EVERYONE WATCHED AND NO ONE SAW IT.

THE SATELLITES DIDN'T FIRE COSMIC ENERGY THAT DEFEATED THE HULK...

...THEY SIPHONED OFF EVERYTHING COMING FROM BANNER HIMSELF...



COLLECTING IT FOR THE CATHEXIS RAY AT ANOTHER LOCATION.



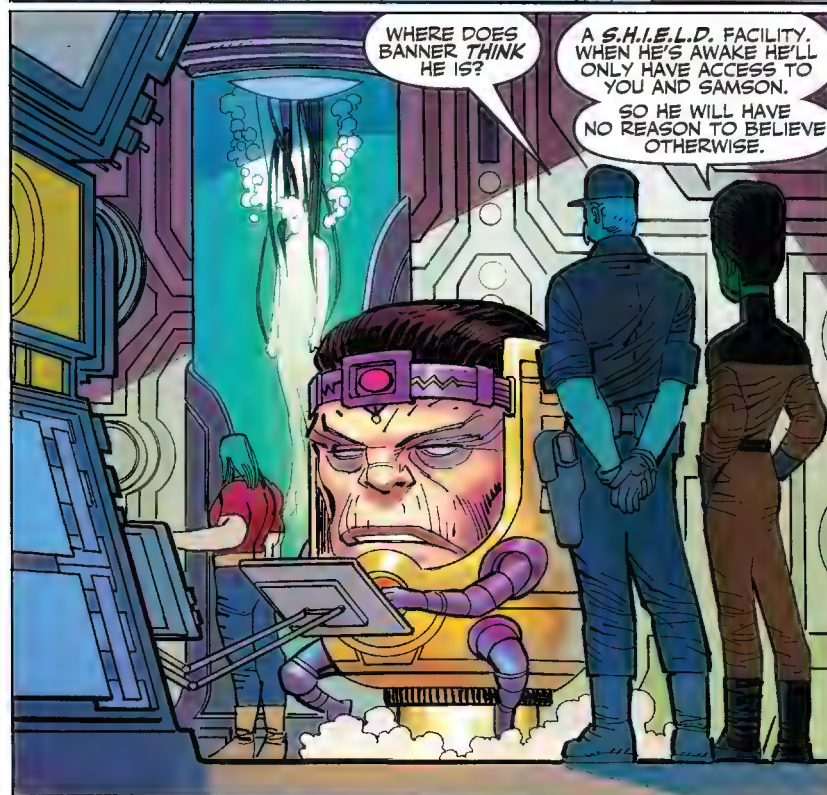
THE GROUND ZERO INCIDENT MADE WHAT WAS TO COME A POSSIBILITY.



DEATH VALLEY, NEVADA.
SEVERAL MONTHS AGO.

THE ENTIRE
OPERATION WAS
HOUSED AT
"GAMMA BASE."

IT WAS IN ACTUALITY AN A.I.M.
FACILITY RETROFITTED WITH L.M.D.
SOLDIERS FOR AUTHENTICITY.



WHERE DOES
BANNER THINK
HE IS?

A S.H.I.E.L.D. FACILITY.
WHEN HE'S AWAKE HE'LL
ONLY HAVE ACCESS TO
YOU AND SAMSON.
SO HE WILL HAVE
NO REASON TO BELIEVE
OTHERWISE.



FROM TIME TO TIME
HE'LL BE...INDUCED INTO
THIS CATATONIC
STATE.

WHERE HIS
GAMMA-IRRADIATED
GENES WILL PROVIDE US
WITH... WHAT WE NEED.



AND
BETTY...?

SHE'S SAFE.
WE HAVE SOMEONE
WITH HER AT ALL
TIMES.
SOMEONE SHE
WILL TRUST.

WHEN
CAN I SEE
HER?



THIS
COUNTRY
NEEDS YOUR
GUIDANCE,
GENERAL.



YOU'LL HAVE
PLENTY OF TIME
TO SPEND WITH
YOUR DAUGHTER
AFTER THAT...

THAT FIRST NIGHT.

IF GROUND ZERO MADE
IT POSSIBLE --

-- THE CATHEXIS RAY
MADE IT A REALITY.

GOOAAAAA

THE POWER WAS...
UNBELIEVABLE.

I BECAME
THE RED HULK.



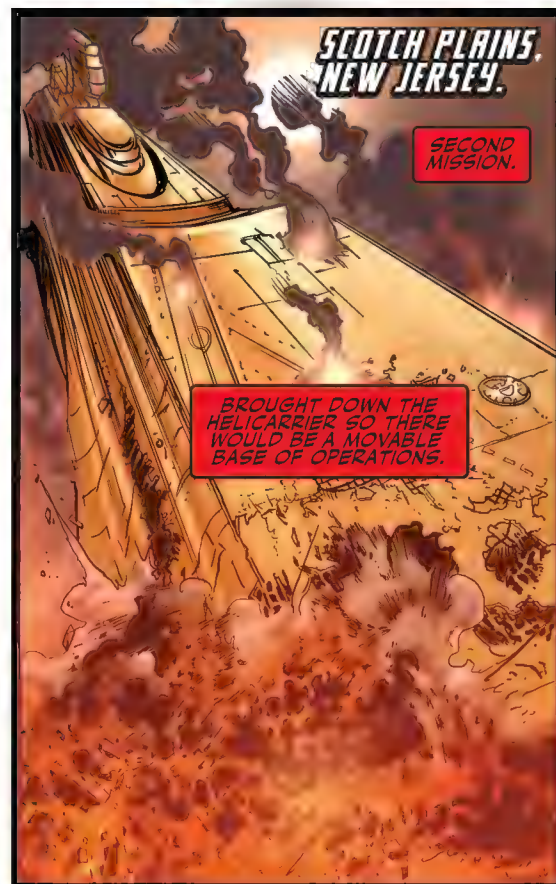
DIMITRI, RUSSIA.

THE FIRST MISSION.

EVEN THE SCORE
FOR WHAT HAD
HAPPENED TO BETTY.

I BROUGHT WEAPONS.
I'D BEEN AROUND
GUNS ALL MY LIFE.

NO MATTER WHAT I LOOKED LIKE ON THE
OUTSIDE, I KNEW WHO I WAS ON THE INSIDE.
THAT WASN'T GOING TO CHANGE.



**SCOTCH PLAINS,
NEW JERSEY.**

SECOND
MISSION.

BROUGHT DOWN THE
HELICARRIER SO THERE
WOULD BE A MOVABLE
BASE OF OPERATIONS.



THERE WAS
ONE FATALITY.
A BAD ONE.

GENERAL ROSS
IS DEAD.



M.O.D.O.K. HAD A
ROSS L.I.M.D. ON
BOARD THE HELICARRIER.
I WAS TOLD IT WAS TO
PROTECT MY IDENTITY.

WE'LL
THROW
"THE BODY"
IN THE MEAT
GRINDER
AND --

-- YOU'LL
DO NOTHING OF
THE SORT.

ALTHOUGH I SUSPECTED IT WAS
ALSO TO KEEP AN EYE ON ME.



QUARTERMAIN.

I DON'T
KNOW WHAT
YOU TWO ARE
UP TO --

-- BUT I'LL BE
LAUNCHING A FULL
INVESTIGATION --



LEONARD. GET BACK!

LEONARD
ISN'T HERE
RIGHT
NOW.

I'D KNOWN
CLAY QUARTERMAIN
FOR YEARS. WE'D HUNTED
THE HULK TOGETHER.

I HAD NOTHING TO DO
WITH HIS MURDER.



THAT WAS
A SAMSON
OPERATION.

HE WAS OUT
OF HIS MIND...

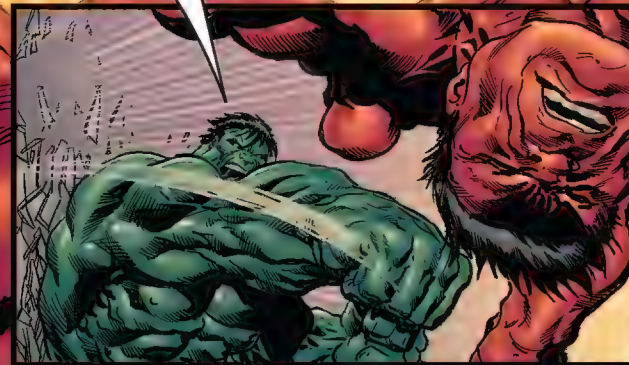
MONUMENT VALLEY.
ON THE UTAH/ARIZONA BORDER.

I TOLD MYSELF THAT
IN WAR THERE WOULD
BE CASUALTIES.

BATTLES THAT
WOULD BE LOST.

RED HULK IS
BAD HULK.

GREEN HULK
STOPS RED HULK
HERE!



I'D GROWN COCKY.
I WANTED BANNER
PUT DOWN SO BADLY
I FORGOT MY OWN
LIMITATIONS.

A MAN -- EVEN
A HULK -- HAS
TO KNOW HIS
LIMITATIONS.



WE GAVE YOU EVERYTHING
YOU NEEDED TO DESTROY
THAT GREEN MONSTER.

EVERYTHING.
STILL YOU FAILED.
YOU FAILED US...

...AND
WORSE,
YOU FAILED
YOURSELF.

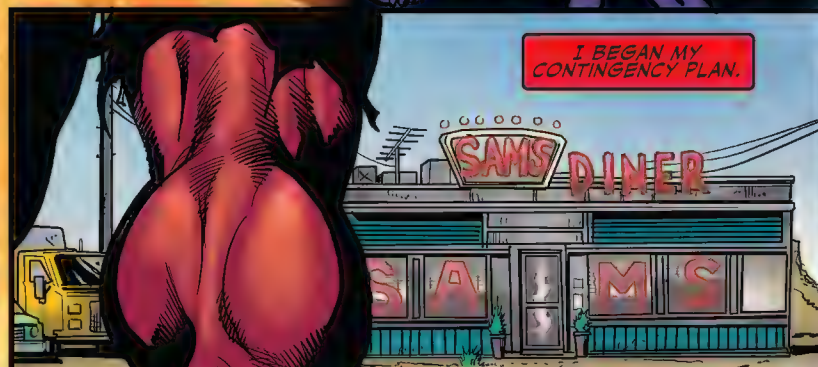
AS IF HAVING TO
BE LECTURED
WASN'T HUMILIATING
ENOUGH --

-- THE VOICE
THAT CAME FROM
THE L.M.D.
WASN'T MY OWN.

IT WAS
M.O.D.O.K.'S.



I BEGAN MY
CONTINGENCY PLAN.



EVENUALLY BRINGING ME
TO THE LAST PERSON ON
EARTH I WOULD EVER SEE
MYSELF PARTNERED WITH --

BANNER.



GENERAL THUNDERBOLT
ROSS HAS TO DIE.
FIND ANOTHER
SOLUTION.

YOU SAID
IT YOURSELF
THAT YOU'RE THE
KEY TO THE
PLAN.

THEY
CAN'T BE
THE PUBLIC
FACE OF THIS
MILITARY COUP.
THEY NEED
YOU.



WE'LL HAVE
TO STAGE IT IN
SUCH A WAY
THAT THE BODY
CAN BE EASILY
FOUND...

NEAR THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT,
WASHINGTON, D.C.
TWO WEEKS AGO.

WE HIJACKED THE
ROSS L.I.M.D. AND
GOT THE REDEEMER
ARMOR AS WELL.

BANNER
REPROGRAMMED
THE THING
FOR BATTLE.

AND I HAD THE UNIQUE TASK
OF ASSASSINATING MYSELF.

YOU
ENJOYED THAT.
HURTING ME.

WE HAD
TO MAKE IT
LOOK REAL.
BUT YES,
I ENJOYED
IT.

NOW WE
WAIT FOR THE
BODY TO BE
DISCOVERED.

THE
LEADER AND
M.O.D.O.K. WILL
HAVE TO COVER
UP THAT HE'S
AN L.I.M.D.

THAT'LL
MEAN **SAMSON**
WILL TAKE CHARGE.
HE'LL MAKE PEOPLE
LIKE **THE AVENGERS**
LESS SUSPICIOUS.

CHEER UP.
I'LL BET
IT WILL BE A
BIG FUNERAL.
YOU CAN EVEN
WATCH IT ON
TELEVISION.

I PICKED BANNER
BECAUSE I KNEW
HE COULD OUTTHINK
THE INTELLIGENCE.

BUT I HATED
WORKING WITH HIM.

THE HELLCARRIER FLIGHT DECK. NOW.

IT ALL LED
TO TONIGHT.

THOSE
WHO DO NOT
LEARN FROM
HISTORY ARE
CONDEMNED
TO REPEAT
IT...

STERNS.

I WAS BETRAYED BY
THE INTELLIGENCIA. TAKEN
ADVANTAGE OF BY THE
LEADER AND M.O.D.O.K.
FAILED BY BANNER.

ALLIANCES
WERE MEANT
FOR WEAK MEN.

WITH ALL THE ENERGY
I ABSORBED FROM THAT...
HULK ROBOT... I FELT
AT LAST LIKE I COULD
TOPPLE THE WORLD --

-- AND MAKE
IT MY OWN.

IT WORKED.
YOUR ENTIRE
BATTLE PLAN.

TALBOT
IS IN THE WHITE
HOUSE NOW. HE'S
ABOUT TO GO ON
TELEVISION --

-- TALBOT?



YOU LEFT US
WITH NO OTHER
CHOICE.

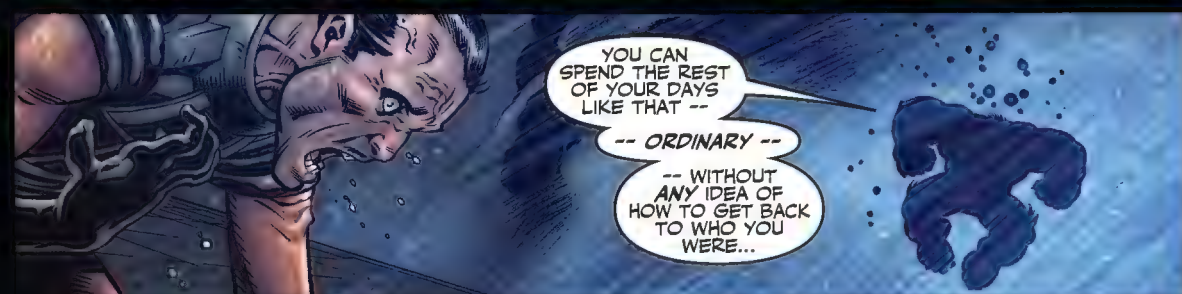
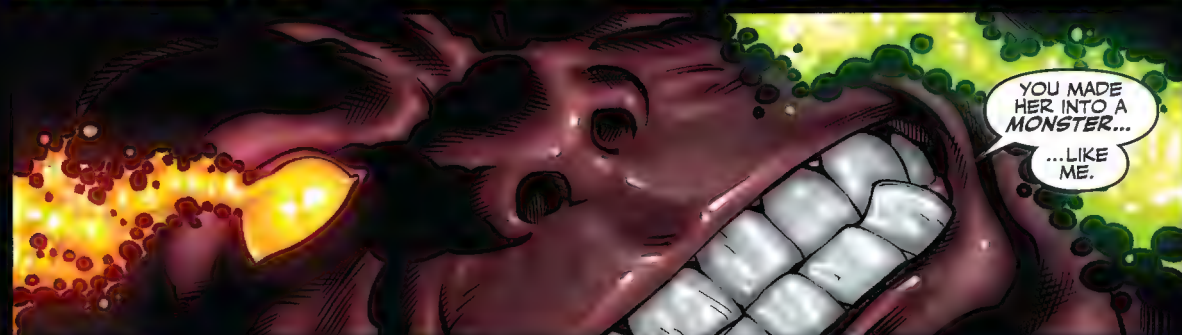
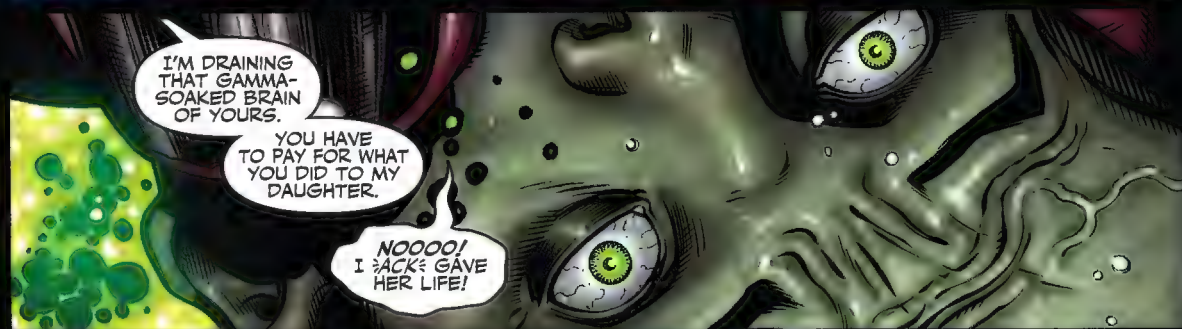
IT WAS
ALWAYS SUPPOSED
TO BE YOU IN
CHARGE.

YOU GAINED
NOTHING IN YOUR
ALLIANCE WITH
BANNER.

THINK OF ALL
WE ACCOMPLISHED
TOGETHER.

YOUR
TRUE NATURE
IS TO TAKE
COMMAND.

I
AGREE...



LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA.



CINCINNATI, OHIO.



BREWER, MAINE.



**INSIDE THE WHITE HOUSE.
THE OVAL OFFICE.**





I ALWAYS SUSPECTED THAT TALBOT WAS AN L.M.D. LIKE WITH THE ROSS L.M.D., THE LEADER WASN'T GOING TO LET ANYONE ASSUME COMMAND OTHER THAN HIMSELF.

I'M IN CHARGE NOW.

THIS TALBOT PROBABLY DIDN'T EVEN KNOW HE WAS JUST A THING.

THE GLENN TALBOT I KNEW AND RESPECTED WAS AND WILL REMAIN DEAD.

IN THE END, EVERYTHING IS AS IT SHOULD BE.

I WON.

ROUND ★ THIRTEEN



THE STRONGEST THERE IS



ISSUE 24 VARIANT ★ DALE KEOWN

**THE WHITE HOUSE.
WASHINGTON, D.C.
TONIGHT.**

I'M IN
CHARGE
NOW.

I WON.

REST
ASSURED
THE PRESIDENT
AND HIS FAMILY
HAVE BEEN TAKEN
TO A SAFE
PLACE.

I HAVE NO
INTENTION OF
DISRUPTING THE
THINGS THAT MAKE
THIS COUNTRY
GREAT --

-- WE
ONLY NEED
TO FIX THE
THINGS THAT
HAVE GONE
WRONG.

AS ANYONE WHO
HAS STUDIED
MILITARY HISTORY
AS I HAVE WILL
TELL YOU --

-- IT ISN'T OVER
UNTIL THE LAST
SHOT'S BEEN FIRED.

I WILL
CONTINUE
TO SERVE
AND PROTECT
THESE UNITED
STA --

YOU?!



BANNER.

NOT
EXACTLY.

I'M THE
ONE --

-- TRUE --

-- AND AFTER
TONIGHT, I
ASSURE YOU,
ONLY --

**INCREDIBLE
HULK.**

-- THE
GAMMA BOMB.

IT UNLEASHED INSIDE
OF ME A MONSTER
WHO DESTROYED
EVERYTHING THAT IS
GOOD IN MY LIFE
AND NOW I'M IN
CONTROL OF IT.

I AM
THE HULK.

THE STRONGEST
THERE IS.

I WAS GENERAL
"THUNDERBOLT" ROSS.
I SACRIFICED EVERYTHING
I HAVE TO BECOME...

THE RED HULK.

I DID IT KNOWINGLY. WILLINGLY.
AND DESPITE THE ADVERSITIES
I'VE FOUND IN THE ROLE --

-- I'M THE
STRONGEST
THERE IS.



THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE.

I MADE IT
SO YOU COULD
NEVER BECOME
THE HULK
AGAIN!

I FORGED AN ALLIANCE
WITH MADMEN AND
FOOLS WHO THOUGHT
THEY COULD PERVERT
MY PLAN TO RESCUE
THIS COUNTRY.

I NEVER WANTED
TO BE THE HULK. TIME
AND AGAIN I'VE TRIED
TO RID MYSELF OF HIM.



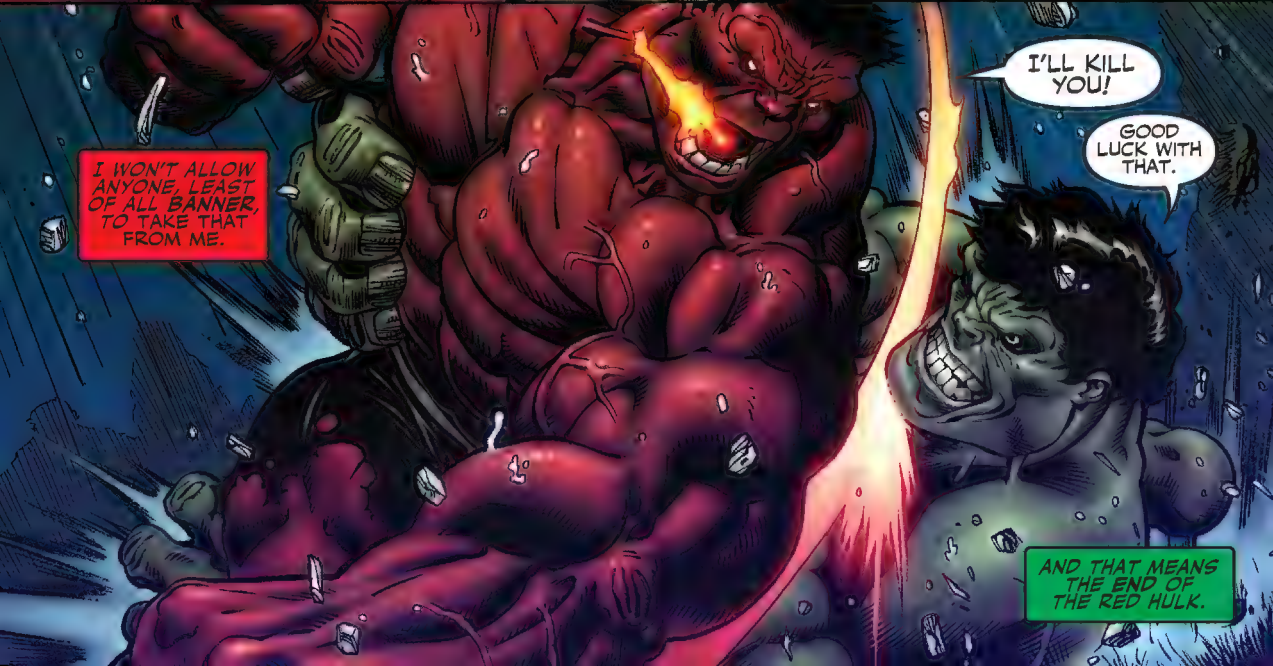
BUT I, ALONE,
EMERGED
VICTORIOUS.
I WILL SAVE
THIS COUNTRY.

OBVIOUSLY,
YOU FAILED.

I DON'T KNOW IF
IT'S FATE OR GOD OR
DESTINY, BUT I KNOW
NOW I WILL NEVER BE
DONE WITH THE HULK.

NO!

LIKE
EVERY OTHER
TIME YOU'VE
TRIED TO
ELIMINATE
ME.



I WON'T ALLOW
ANYONE, LEAST
OF ALL BANNER,
TO TAKE THAT
FROM ME.

I'LL KILL
YOU!

GOOD
LUCK WITH
THAT.

AND THAT MEANS
THE END OF
THE RED HULK.



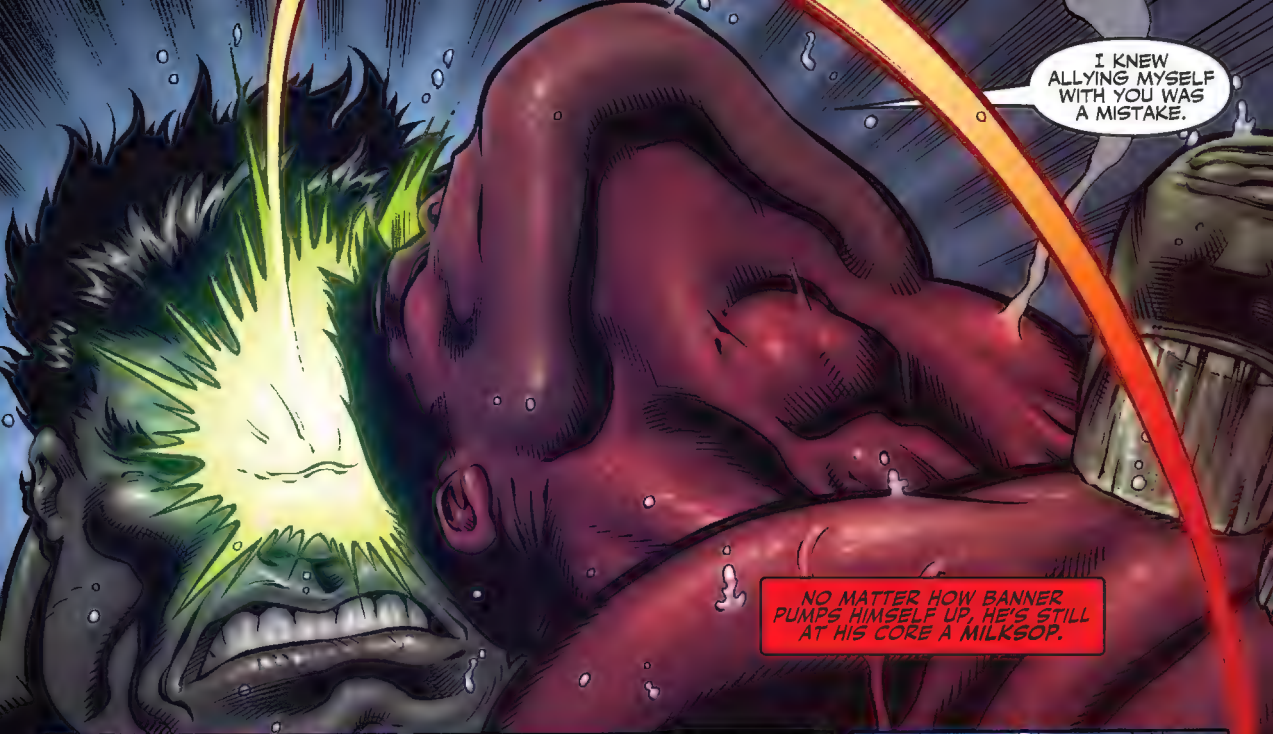
WE
CAN DO THIS
YOUR WAY OR
MINE.

WE DO
IT *YOUR* WAY
AND *YOU* GET
HURT A LOT
WORSE.

YARRRGHHH

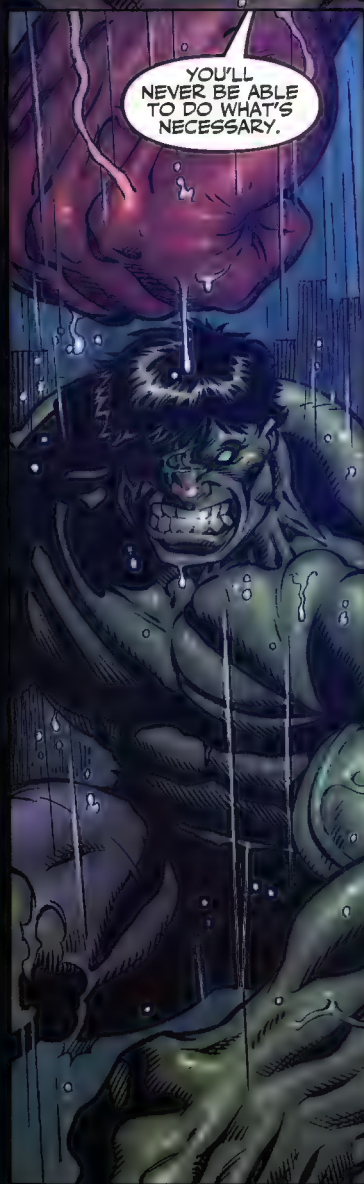
I'VE BEATEN THE HULK
BEFORE. HE MAY BE
STRONG, BUT HE HASN'T
GOT THE MILITARY
EXPERIENCE I HAVE.

I'VE NEVER FELT MORE
IN CONTROL OF MYSELF.
IF THERE'S A CHANCE
TO END THIS WITHOUT
KILLING HIM, I WILL. BUT...
HE MAY NOT LEAVE
ME WITH A CHOICE.



I KNEW
ALLYING MYSELF
WITH YOU WAS
A MISTAKE.

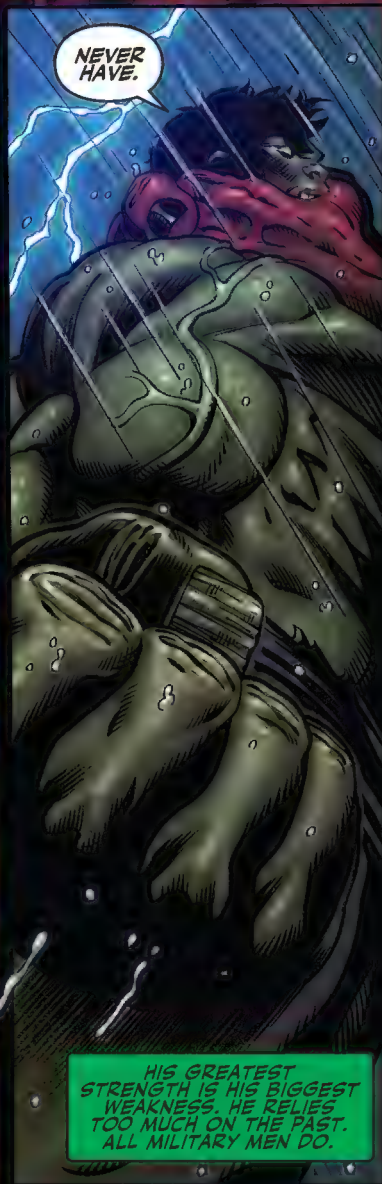
NO MATTER HOW BANNER
PUMPS HIMSELF UP, HE'S STILL
AT HIS CORE A MILKSOP.



YOU'LL
NEVER BE ABLE
TO DO WHAT'S
NECESSARY.



YOU'VE GOT NO
IDEA WHAT I'M
CAPABLE OF...



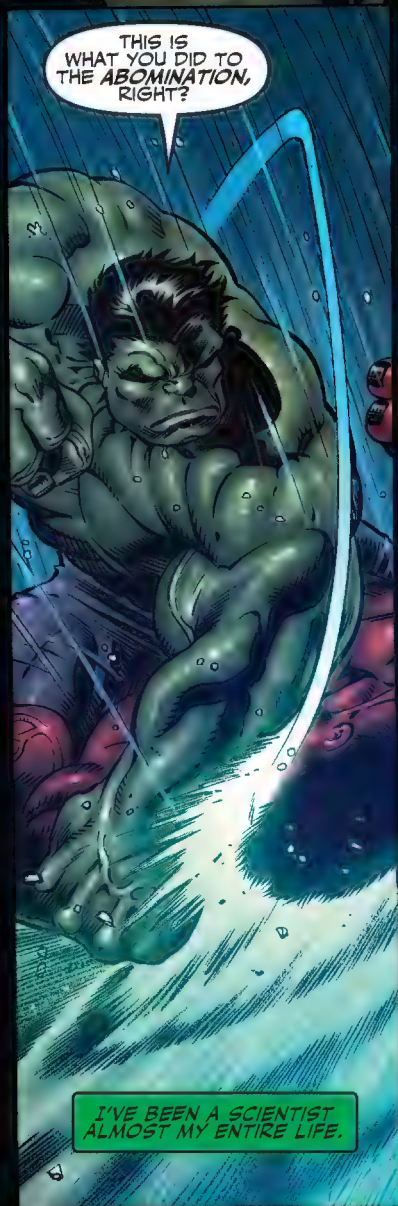
NEVER
HAVE.

HIS GREATEST
STRENGTH IS HIS BIGGEST
WEAKNESS. HE RELIES
TOO MUCH ON THE PAST.
ALL MILITARY MEN DO.



AFTER
TONIGHT YOU
WILL.

MEN WHOSE DOCTRINE
IS THE PULP FICTION THAT
"MIGHT MAKES RIGHT."



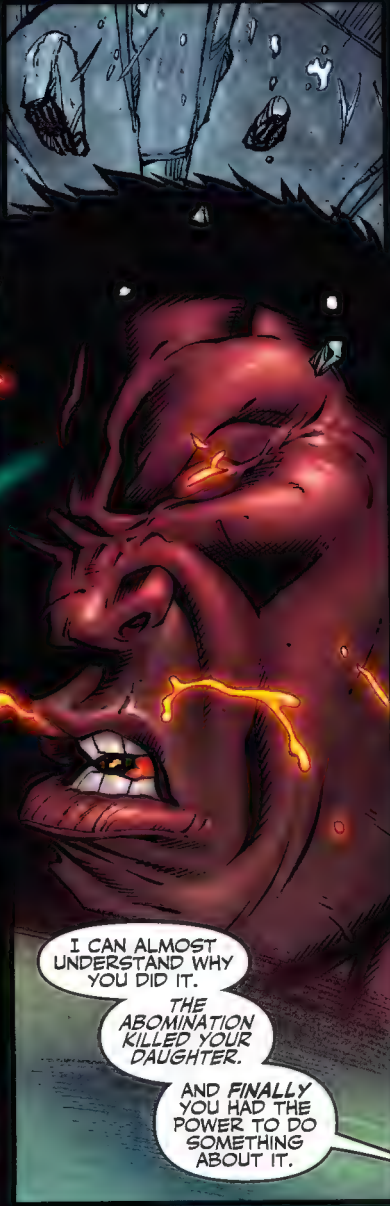
THIS IS
WHAT YOU DID TO
THE ABOMINATION,
RIGHT?

I'VE BEEN A SCIENTIST
ALMOST MY ENTIRE LIFE.



YOU HIT
HIM SO HARD
YOU CRACKED
HIS SKULL.

WE CAN'T AFFORD
TO LIVE IN THE PAST.
BY NATURE,
WE'RE FUTURISTS.



I CAN ALMOST
UNDERSTAND WHY
YOU DID IT.

THE
ABOMINATION
KILLED YOUR
DAUGHTER.

AND FINALLY
YOU HAD THE
POWER TO DO
SOMETHING
ABOUT IT.

LIFE IS ONE GREAT
BIG EXPERIMENT.
EVERY DAY, EVERY
CHOICE, BRINGS ABOUT
A NEW CONCLUSION.

YOU HAVE TO BE OPEN
TO THAT...OTHERWISE,
YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE
THE SAME MISTAKES,
OVER AND OVER.

THAT MAY BE THE CODA
OF A MAN
OF SCIENCE...

...BUT I HAD
TO LEARN IT
AS A HULK...

BRUCE!
STOP!



LET
ME GO,
HE'LL KILL
HIM!

IT COULD
GO EITHER WAY,
BUT THAT'S FOR
THEM TO
DECIDE.



NOBODY
TELLS ME
WHAT TO
DO.

JEN
WALTERS!



I'M
GLAD YOU
DID THAT,
RED.

I MIGHT'VE
STARTED TO
LIKE YOU. OR
WORSE, FELT
SORRY FOR
YOU.



I DON'T
CARE HOW MANY
OF YOU COME
OUT OF THE
WOODWORK.

RED SHE-HULK.
SAVAGE SHE-HULK.
KID SHE-HULK.
BLUE SHE-HULK.

I WAS
HERE FIRST.
THE ORIGINAL.

THE
SENSATIONAL
SHE-HULK!





BETTY.

EVERYTHING I'VE DONE AS THE RED HULK CAME WITH A HORRIBLE PRICE.

THIS IS WHERE WE BOTH MEET. WHERE WE BOTH SHARE THE SAME WEAKNESS.



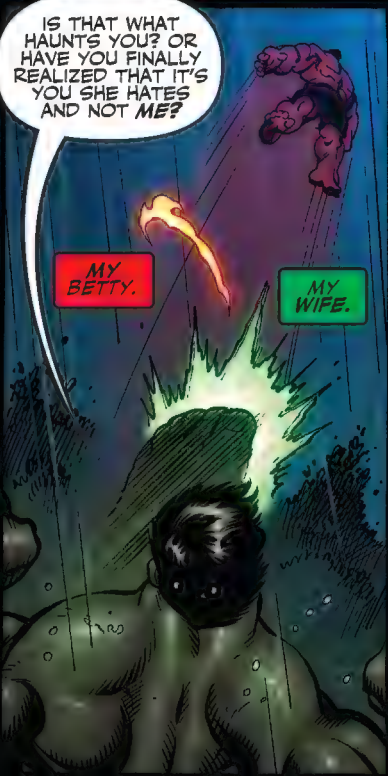
OFF.



HOW MY DAUGHTER EVER FELL IN LOVE WITH YOU IS BEYOND ME.

THE LEADER AND M.O.D.O.K. TRANSFORMED MY ONLY CHILD -- MY LITTLE GIRL -- INTO A RED SHE-HULK.

IF I'D KNOWN THEY WERE GOING TO DO THAT TO HER, WOULD I HAVE MADE THE CHOICE TO BECOME WHAT I AM?



IS THAT WHAT HAUNTS YOU? OR HAVE YOU FINALLY REALIZED THAT IT'S YOU SHE HATES AND NOT ME?

MY BETTY.

MY WIFE.



RICK, MAKE SURE BETTY'S OKAY.

JEN, STOP HITTING HER OR YOU'LL ANSWER TO ME.

LYRA, SCOUT THE WHITE HOUSE. MAKE CERTAIN NOBODY'S LEFT INSIDE BEFORE THE WHOLE PLACE COLLAPSES.



DUDE, WHAT'RE YOU GONNA BE DOING?

I'M PUTTING AN END TO THIS.

...BRUCE...?

**DEPARTMENT OF ENGRAVING AND PRINTING.
U.S. TREASURY.
WASHINGTON, D.C.**

*I CANNOT LET MY
DAUGHTER DISTRACT ME.*

**HAVE TO
STAY FOCUSED.
BANNER WILL TAKE
ADVANTAGE OF
ANY WEAKNESS.**

NEVER
LET IT BE
SAID THAT *THE*
INTELLIGENCIA
THOUGHT
SMALL...

I CANNOT LET MY
DAUGHTER DISTRACT ME.

...OR THAT
WE LET ANY
OPPORTUNITY GO
TO WASTE, EH,
GHOST?

YOU DID NOT
LOSE A FAMILY
MEMBER DURING
THESE BATTLES,
WIZARD.

ALL I CARE
ABOUT IS HAVING
THE FUNDING TO
BRING ABOUT
ANOTHER OF MY
GAMMATIZED
APES.

WAIT...
DID YOU
HEAR THAT...?
**SOMEONE'S
COMING!**

I DON'T
KNOW HOW
KLAU COULD
HEAR ANY-
THING OVER
THE PRINTING
PRESSES,
TRAPSTER.

LET
THEM COME,
THINKER. I'LL
DEAL WITH
WHOEVER IT
IS JUST LIKE
THESE
GUYS.

LIKE SHE DID ON THE DAY
THE HULK WAS BORN.

BETTY DREW MY ATTENTION
AWAY AND BANNER SLIPPED
OUT ONTO THE TARMAC AS THE
GAMMA BOMB DETONATED.

THIS ISN'T OUR
BATTLE! GRAB
AS MUCH MONEY
AS YOU CAN
AND GO!

I CAN NO LONGER AFFORD
TO BE SO CARELESS...

HE TURNED MY DAUGHTER AGAINST ME.

FOR YEARS HE HUNTED ME.

BANNER.

BANNER.

LEFT ME ALONE WITH NOTHING BUT MY JOB.

DROVE AWAY MY FAMILY.

ROSS.

ROSS.

EVERY OPPORTUNITY I'VE HAD TO MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE WAS DERAILED BY BANNER.

ANY CHANCE I HAD AT HAPPINESS WAS RUINED BY ROSS.

YOU CAN'T
HANDLE MY
POWER!

I NEVER KILLED HIM
BECAUSE OF WHAT IT
WOULD DO TO BETTY.



THIS TIME
NOTHING'S GOING
TO STOP ME.

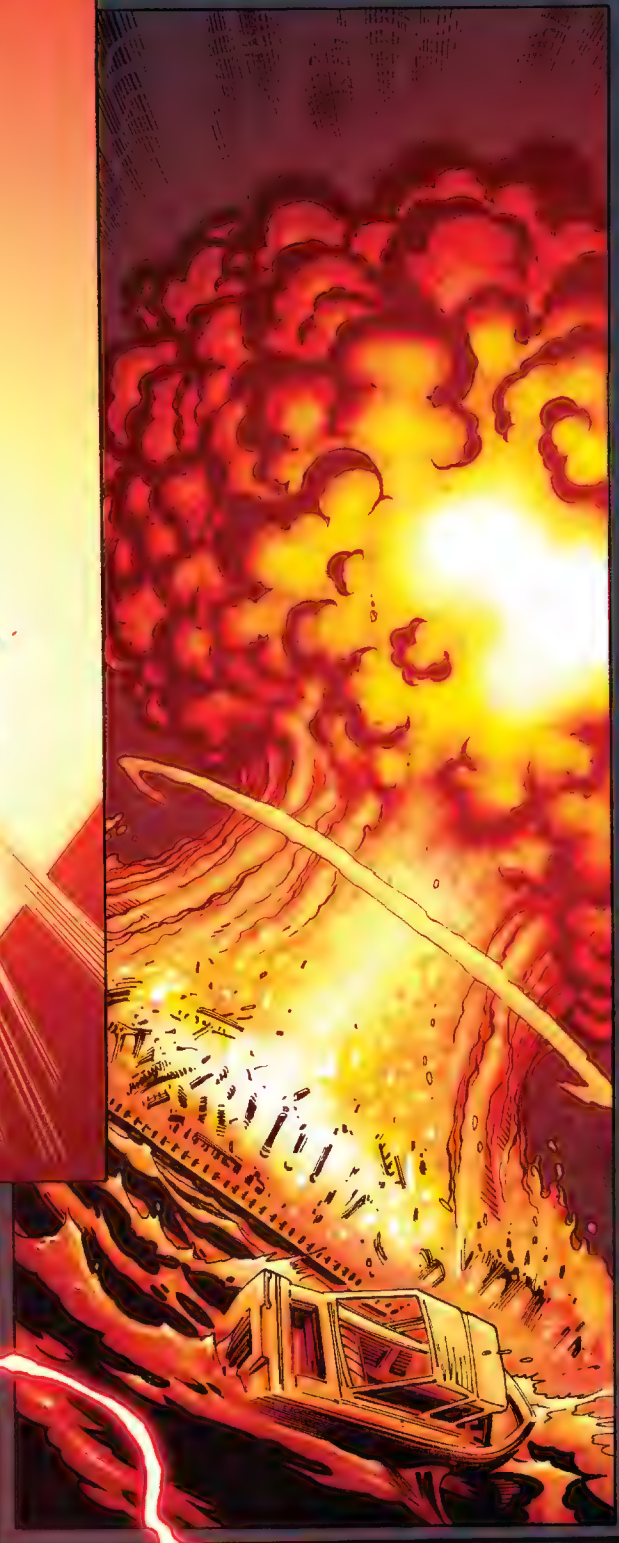
YOU DON'T
HAVE WHAT IT
TAKES TO *BE*
THE HULK.

SHE'LL HAVE TO
UNDERSTAND.

WOULD SHE EVER
FORGIVE ME?



THIS IS
HOW IT HAS
TO END!



FINALLY... KILLING
BANNER... THE LAST
SHOT'S BEEN FIRED...

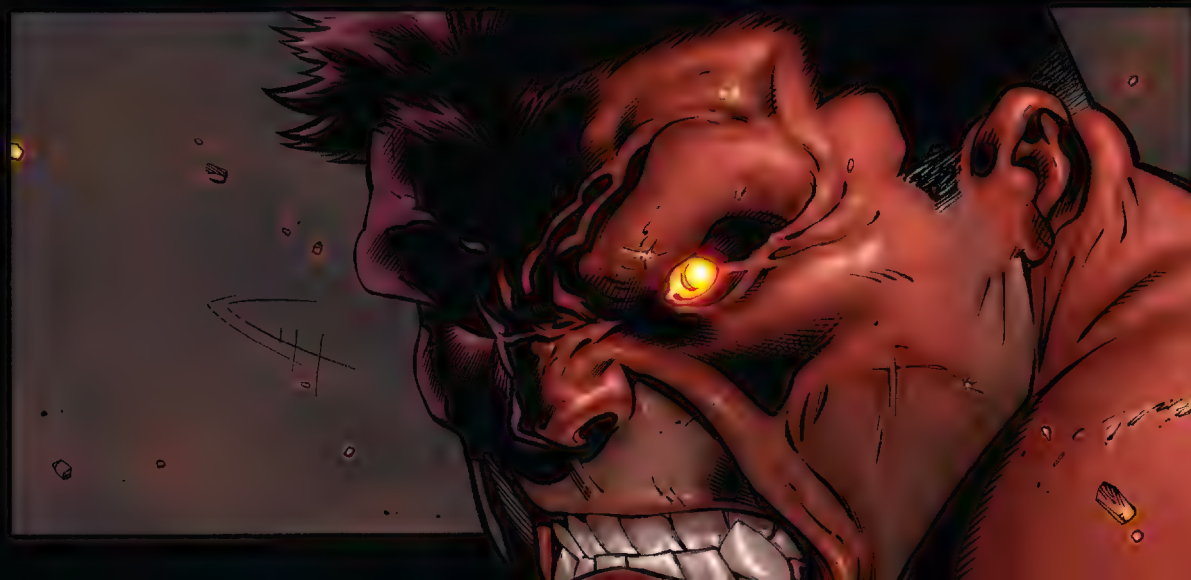
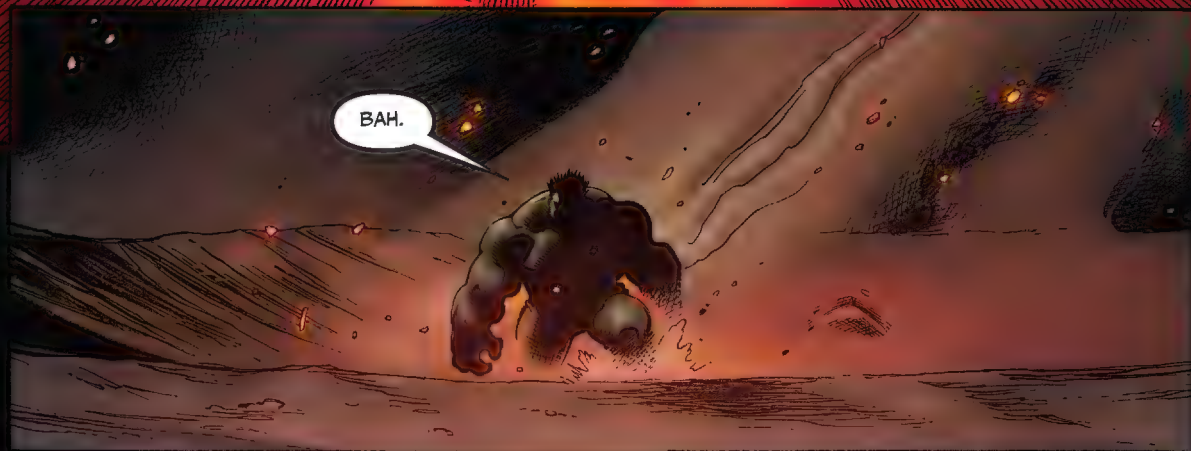
**I AM THE
STRONGEST
THERE IS!**

**I DID WHAT I'VE
ALWAYS DONE.**

**WHAT WAS NECESSARY.
FOR THE GOOD
OF THE COUNTRY.**

**EVENUALLY, BETTY
WILL COME TO SEE THAT
BANNER'S DEATH...IT
WAS FOR THE BEST.**

BAH.





THAT'S
ALL YOU
GOT?

WAR'S
OVER. YOU'RE
DONE.



THE LINCOLN MEMORIAL.

IT CAN'T END
LIKE THIS.

I KNOW I'M
STRONGER
THAN HE IS.

I TOOK
DOWN THOR.

I PUNCHED OUT
THE WATCHER!

I...

YOU'RE SURRENDERING.
UNCONDITIONALLY.

DON'T EVEN
THINK ABOUT SHRINKING
DOWN TO HUMAN SIZE.
RETURNING VICTORIOUSLY
AS "THUNDERBOLT"
ROSS.

YOU SEE,
ALL THE YEARS
YOU'VE STUDIED
THE HULK, I'VE
STUDIED YOU.

AND AS SAD
AS IT MAY SOUND,
YOU'VE **ALREADY**
HAD **THE BEST**
DAY OF YOUR
LIFE.



YOU COME BACK AND
I'LL SEE YOU HANG
FOR **TREASON**.

IT WAS **YOUR** IDEA
TO FAKE MY DEATH...
YOU PLANNED THIS
ALL ALONG...

I CAN'T
EVER BE **ROSS**
AGAIN...

...ONLY...
RED...



THE
FUNERAL WE
GAVE YOU AT
ARLINGTON.

EVEN
CAPTAIN AMERICA
SHOWED UP.

THE WAY
EVERYONE SPOKE
ABOUT YOU,
INCLUDING **ME**.

YOU GOT
EVERYTHING
YOU EVER WANTED.
A **HERO'S** SEND-OFF
AND THE **RESPECT**
OF YOUR PEERS.



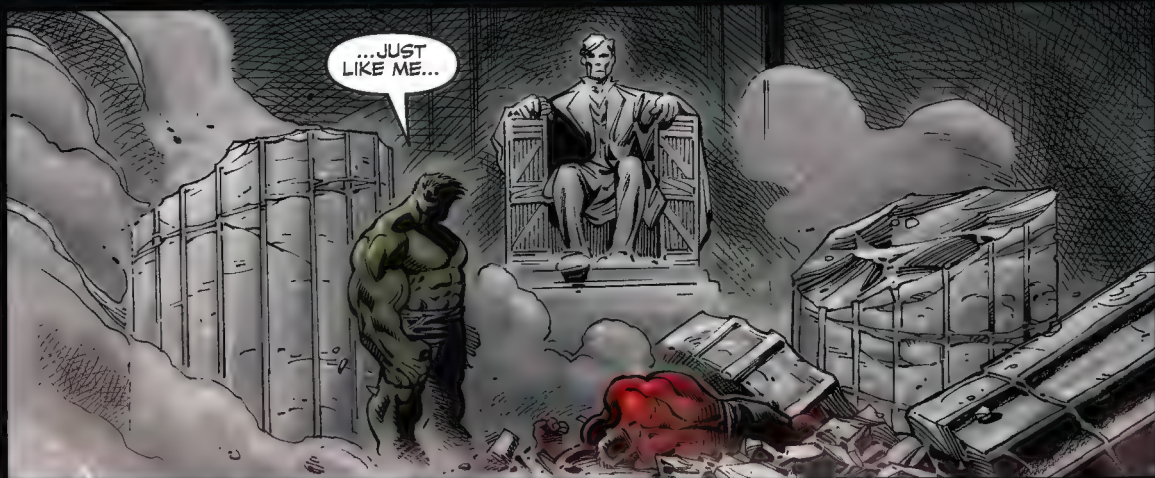
I DIDN'T
HAVE ANYTHING
TO DO WITH
MAKING YOU INTO
A MONSTER.

THAT WAS
YOUR OWN
CHOICE.

BUT
NOW, AFTER
YEARS OF TRYING
TO GET RID OF
THE HULK --

-- IT'S
ALL YOU HAVE
LEFT...

...JUST
LIKE ME...





YOU GOT THIS PLACE IN SHAPE PRETTY QUICKLY.

NOT HARD WHEN YOU'VE GOT AN ARMY OF L.M.D.'S WHO DO NOTHING BUT WORK AROUND THE CLOCK.



THINK YOU HAVE ENOUGH SECURITY?

PLEASE HOLD FOR SCANNING, GENTLEMEN.

LET'S JUST SAY I DESIGNED THE PLACE TO HOLD ME HERE IF WE HAD TO.



SUBJECT: DR. BRUCE BANNER, A.K.A. THE HULK, COMMANDER GAMMA BASE SUBJECT: STEVE ROGERS, FORMER DESIGNATION CAPTAIN AMERICA. RETINA SCAN COMPLETE. I.D. MATCH.

YOU MAY PROCEED, SIRS.

THANKS, JIM.



I'M CONFIDENT IT'LL HOLD HIM.

I'M NOT ENTIRELY SOLD ON YOUR IDEA. SHOULDN'T WE JUST LOCK HIM UP AND THROW AWAY THE KEY?

WE COULD...



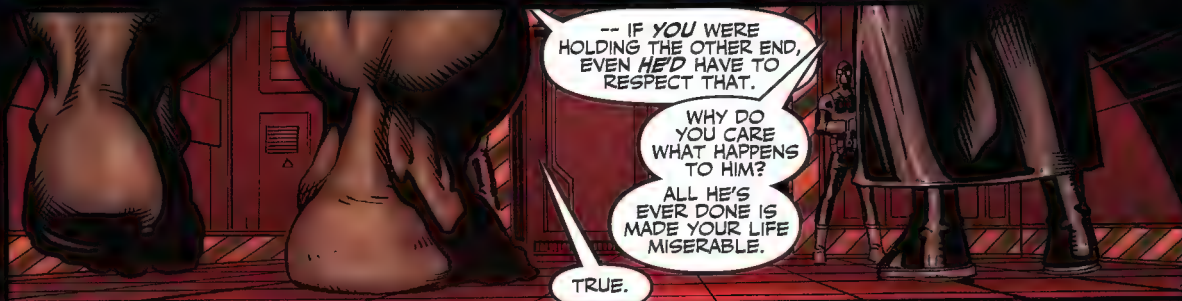
LEVEL TWELVE.
PLEASE HOLD FOR
FULL BODY SCAN.

HE
IDOLIZES YOU,
YOU KNOW.

HOW AM
I SUPPOSED
TO REACT TO
THAT?

I'M JUST
SAYING... IF WE'RE
GOING TO KEEP
HIM ON A **SHORT
LEASH** --

SCAN COMPLETE.
YOU MAY NOW
PROCEED.



-- IF YOU WERE
HOLDING THE OTHER END,
EVEN **HED** HAVE TO
RESPECT THAT.

WHY DO
YOU CARE
WHAT HAPPENS
TO HIM?

ALL HE'S
EVER DONE IS
MADE YOUR LIFE
MISERABLE.

TRUE.



LOOK, WE
BOTH KNOW HE'S A
BRILLIANT MILITARY
STRATEGIST.

AND THERE'S NO
DOUBT HE'S INCREDIBLY
POWERFUL -- MAYBE
SECOND TO ME.

THERE ARE
MISSIONS THAT
REQUIRE SOMEONE
WITH HIS SKILL
SET --

-- AND HE'S
A PATRIOT WHO'S
WILLING TO **SACRIFICE**
HIMSELF FOR HIS
COUNTRY.

SOUND
LIKE ANYONE
FAMILIAR?



I'M NOT
GOING ANY FURTHER
UNTIL I HEAR THE
TRUTH.

WHAT'S YOUR **REAL**
MOTIVATION?

SIGH.



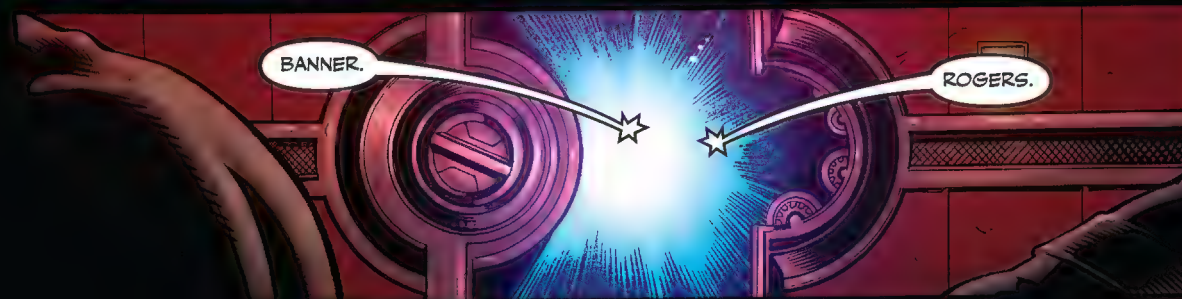
PLEASE HOLD FOR
FULL BODY SCAN.

LOOK, IT'S
LIKE I SAID AT HIS
"**FUNERAL**."

IT'S FOR
BETTY.

IT'S
ALWAYS FOR
BETTY...

BODY SCAN
COMPLETE.
I.D. MATCH.
PROCEED.



BANNER.

ROGERS.

PATIENT #413
RED HULK
STAND CLEAR
OF THE GLASS

I KNEW
YOU'D GET
AROUND TO
ASKING
FOR MY
HELP...



THE END...for now...

★ EXTRAS ★



COVER GALLERY



ISSUE 13 VARIANT ★ **JOHN ROMITA JR. & DEAN WHITE**



ISSUE 14 VARIANT ★ ED MCGUINNESS, DEXTER VINES & CHRIS SOTOMAYOR



ISSUE 14 VARIANT ★ IAN CHURCHILL, MARK FARMER & PETER STEIGERWALD



ISSUE 14 VARIANT ★ **ED McGUINNESS & CHRIS SOTOMAYOR**



ISSUE 15 VARIANT ★ ED MCGUINNESS, DEXTER VINES & CHRIS SOTOMAYOR



ISSUE 16 VARIANT ★ ED MCGUINNESS, MARK FARMER & DAVE STEWART



ISSUE 16 VARIANT ★ **ED MCGUINNESS, DEXTER VINES & CHRIS SOTOMAYOR**



ISSUE 17 VARIANT ★ ED MCGUINNESS, DEXTER VINES & CHRIS SOTOMAYOR



ISSUE 18 VARIANT ★ ED MCGUINNESS, DEXTER VINES & JASON KEITH



I S S U E 1 9 V A R I A N T ★

M A R K O D J U R D J E V I C



I S S U E 2 0 V A R I A N T ★

ED MCGUINNESS & KAI SPANNUTH



I S S U E 2 1 V A R I A N T ★ F R A N K C H O & J A S O N K E I T H



FALL OF THE HULKS: GAMMA VARIANT ★

ED MCGUINNESS & CHRIS SOTOMAYOR



I S S U E 2 2 V A R I A N T ★

DAVID FINCH & PETER STEIGERWALD



I S S U E 2 3 V A R I A N T ★

ADAM KUBERT & LAURA MARTIN



I S S U E 2 4 C O V E R ★

ED MCGUINNESS & EDGAR DELGADO

IAN CHURCHILL

★ SKETCHBOOK & INTERVIEW ★

Richard Starkings!: You're back at the House of Ideas after a brief interlude with a girl at the Distinguished Competition -- what lured you back?

Ian!: Two words -- Jeph Loeb!

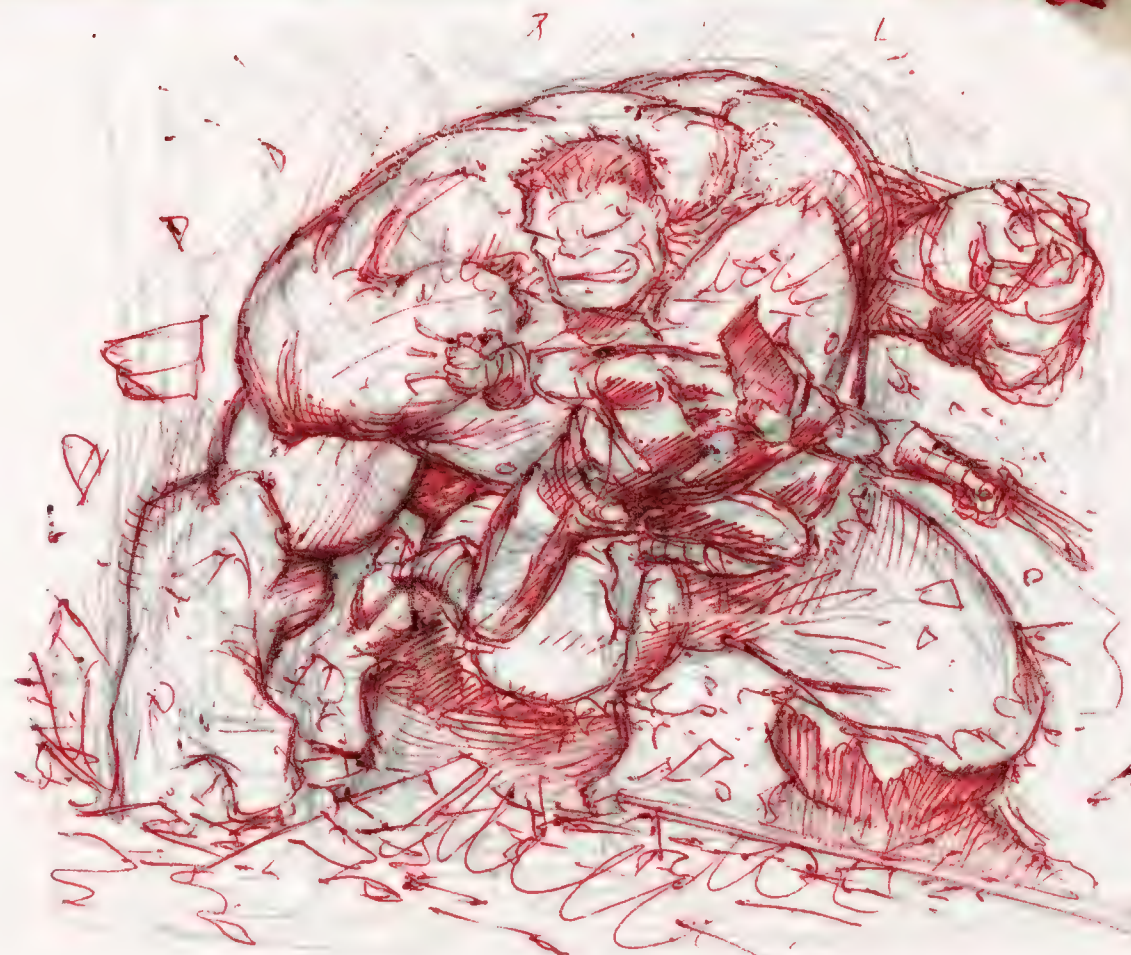
Rich!: DEADPOOL, CABLE, THE AVENGERS, WOLVERINE and UNCANNY X-MEN... and now HULK. What keeps you coming back to the Marvel characters?

Ian!: Marvel characters are an intrinsic part of my life. I grew up reading Marvel comics, and the wonder and excitement you experience within the pages of those comics in your



formative years, are the things that stay with you a lifetime.

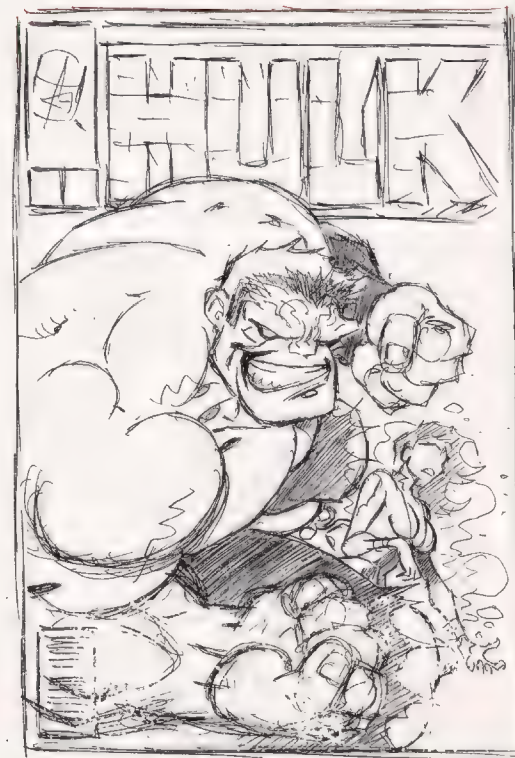
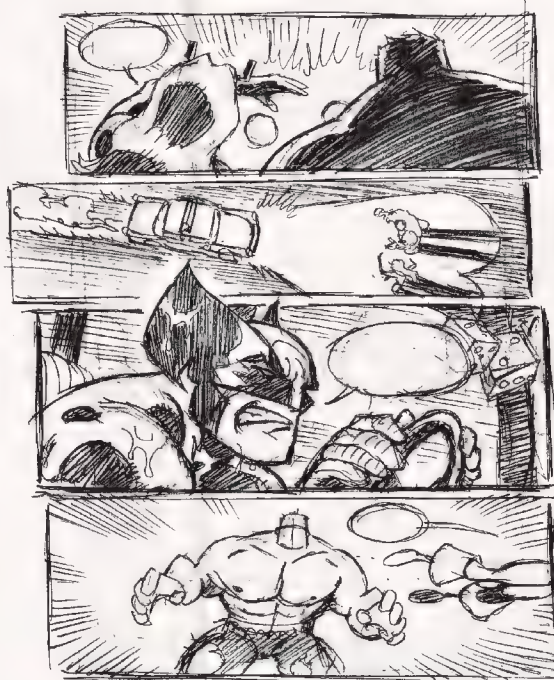
Rich!: Your style on this run of HULK is not the one Marvel readers have become used



to over the years. I remember you showing me sketches in this cleaner style when you were on your Famous World Tour with the future missus Churchill in the very early noughties, and, of course your two issues of *Elephantmen* last year hinted at this slicker look... What made you feel that the time was right to switch?

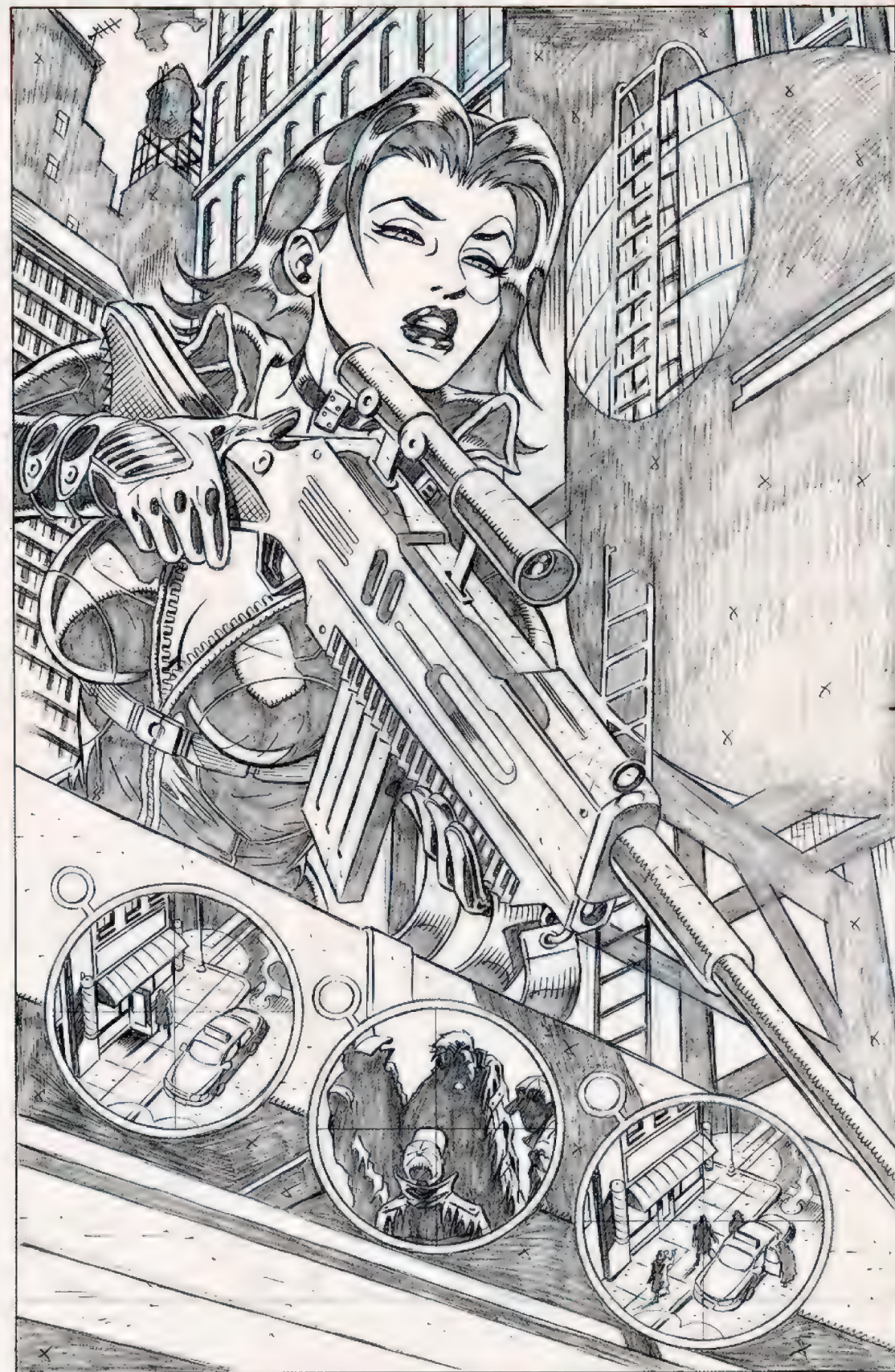
Ian!: I look at my recent *Elephantmen* issues as a bridge to a place where I'm more me. Those issues were breakdowns, not full pencils, which gave me a taste of what it would be like to take it a step further. The style I employed on HULK was a conscious decision for a number of reasons, but chiefly to hit the deadlines and maintain the feel and direction that Ed had the book heading in.

I've always felt more comfortable drawing in a less cut and rendered style and as a result of recent surgery on the shoulder of my drawing arm, I decided, along with Jeph and Mark, to go with a style that would allow my injury to heal as swiftly as possible. As it turned out, it was more of a stylized look than I'd originally intended, but I think it worked out well and managed to keep pace alongside Jeph's fast-moving storyline.

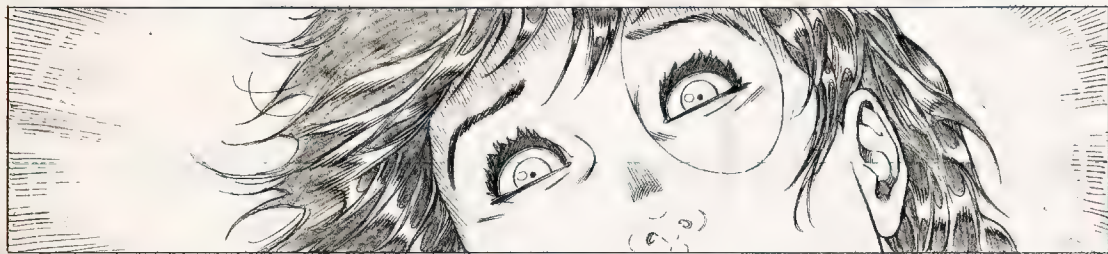
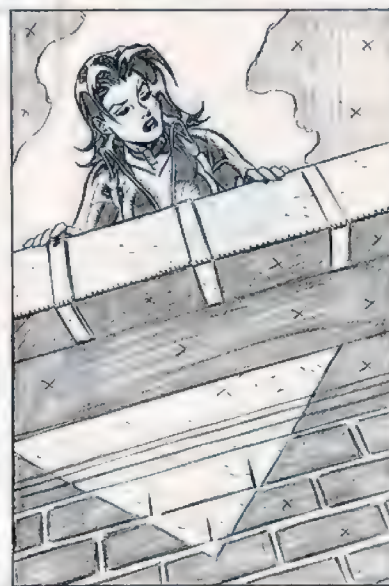
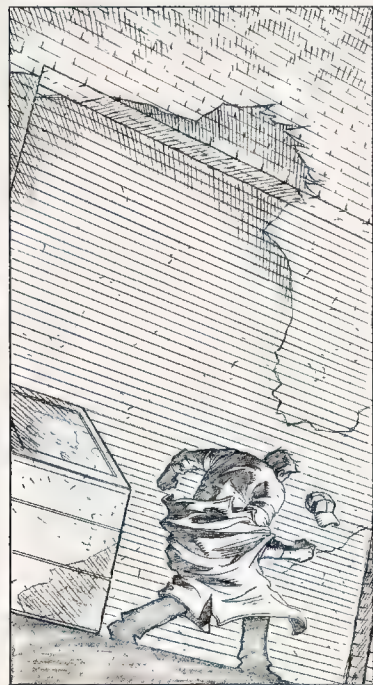
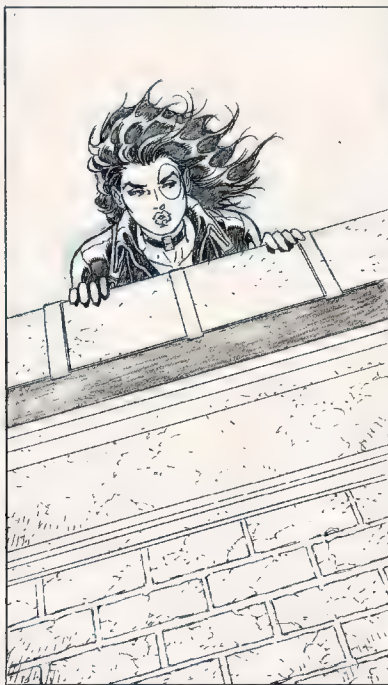
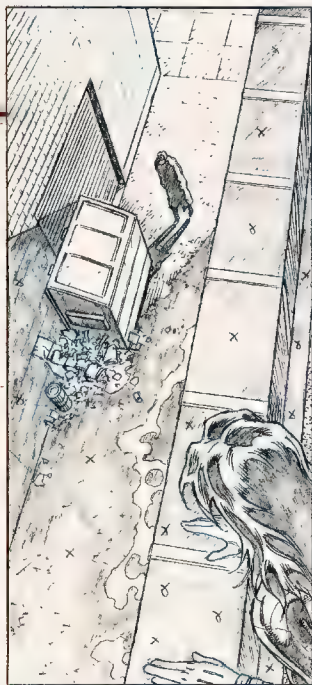
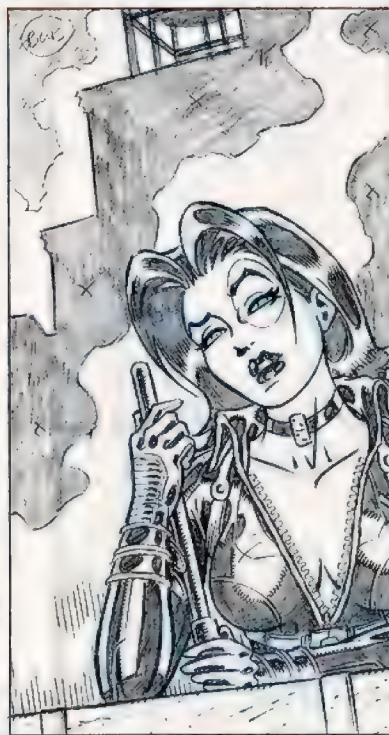


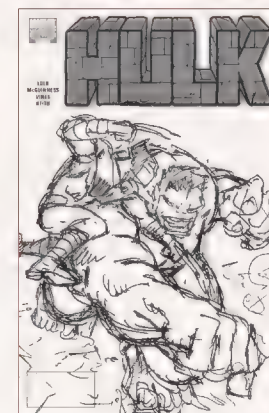


Ian actually started his first issue in his "cut and rendered" style. Presented here for the first time are Pages 1 and 2



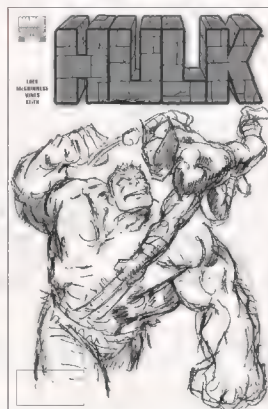
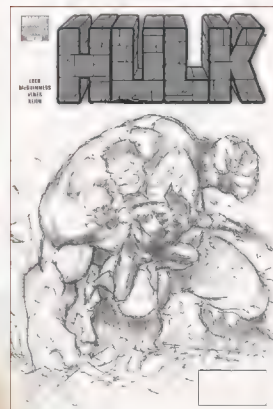
side-by-side with the final pencils done in the technique he ultimately chose to craft the entire four issues.





Rich: What do we have to look forward to in the future from you?

Ian!: My next project revolves around a character I created when I was eight years old called *MarineMan*, an underwater-based creation I've been desperate to get out of my head for years!



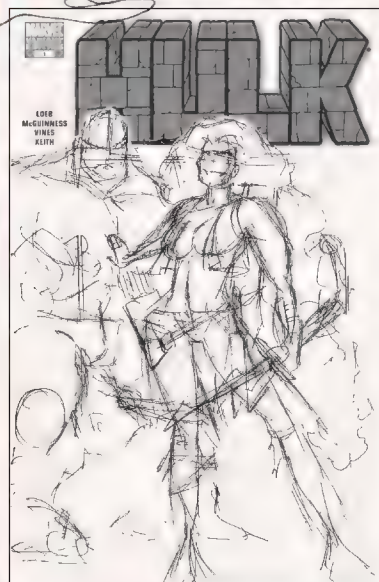


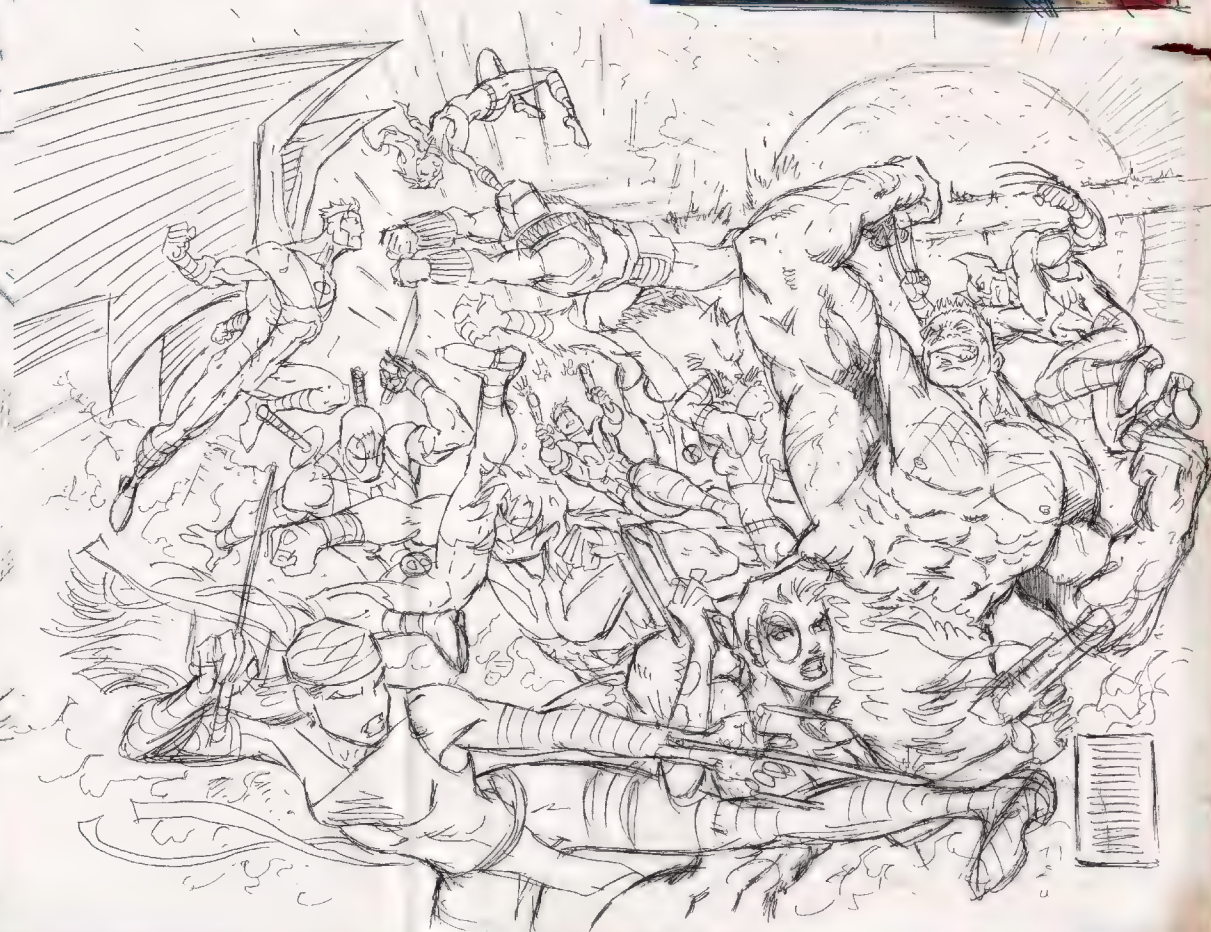
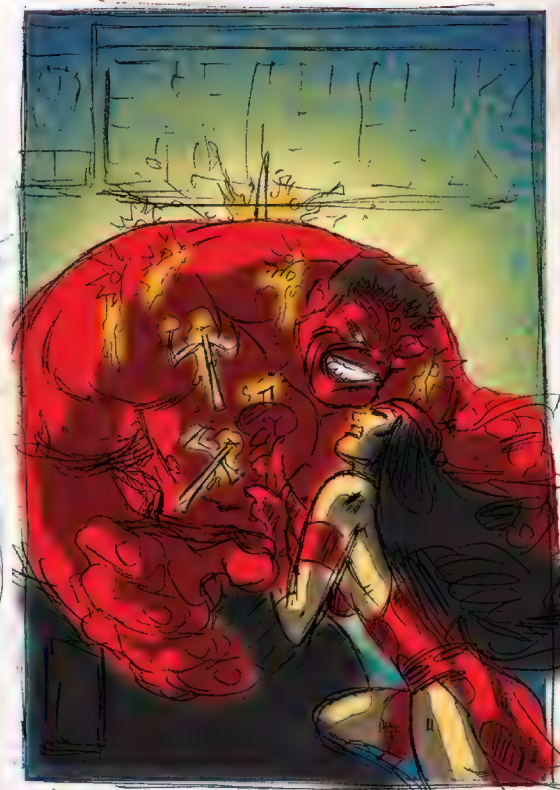
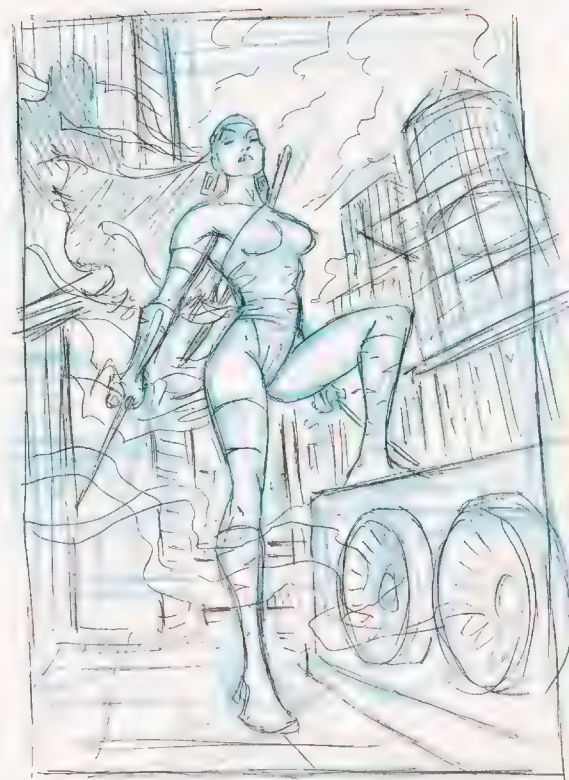
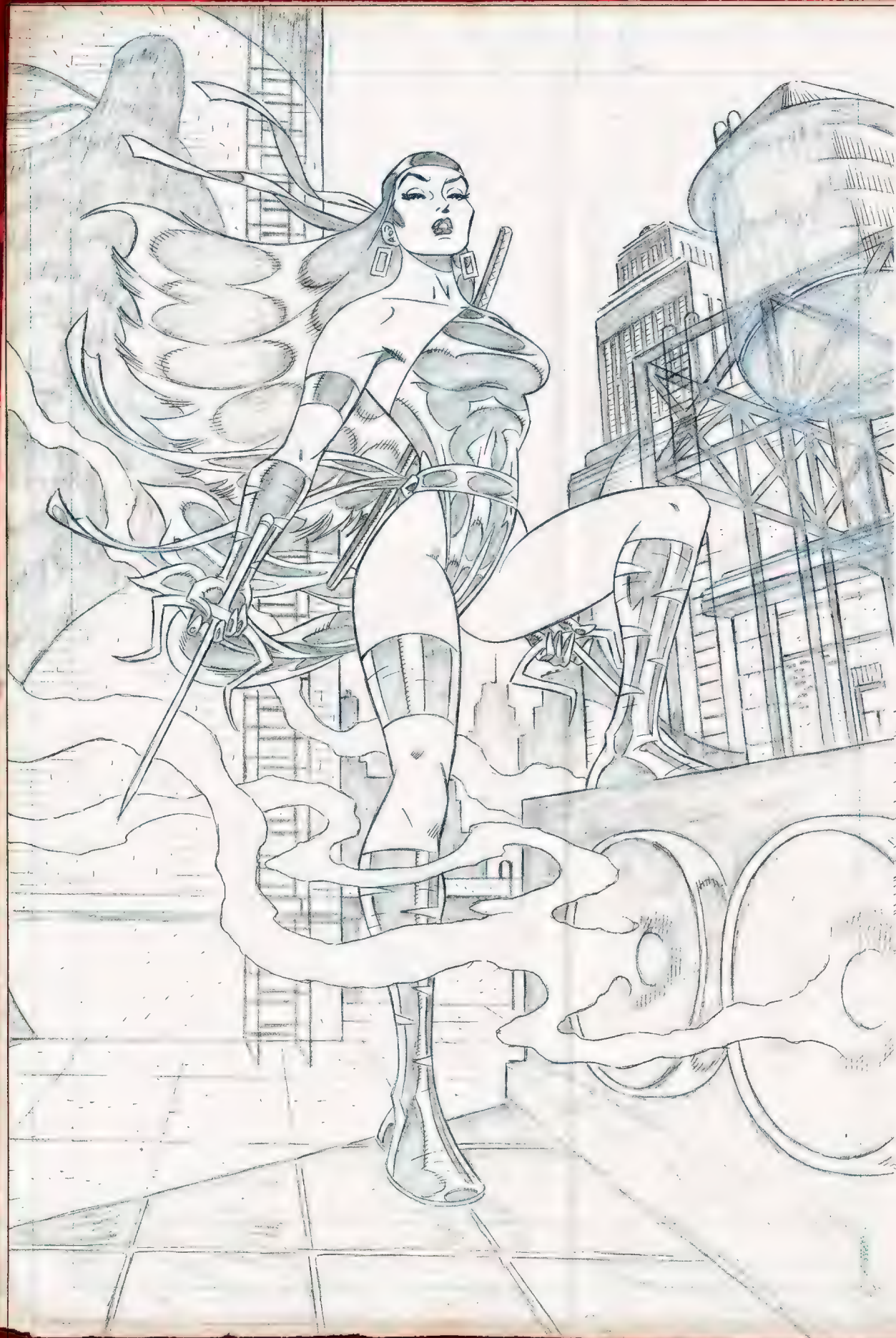
It's due in 2010, and the drawing style will be pitched somewhere between how I drew the issues of *Elephantmen* and the recent issues of the HULK.

Rich!: Any Marvel characters you'd still like to take a crack at?

Ian!: Plenty! Spider-Man would be fun and I've always wanted a crack at the 1950's era Marvelman... Who knows what's around the corner. Only time will tell!

For now, I hope everyone will just enjoy the HULK trade they now hold in their hands, because we all had fun working on it, and did our very best to give you the best experience you can have with your clothes on! Enjoy...!





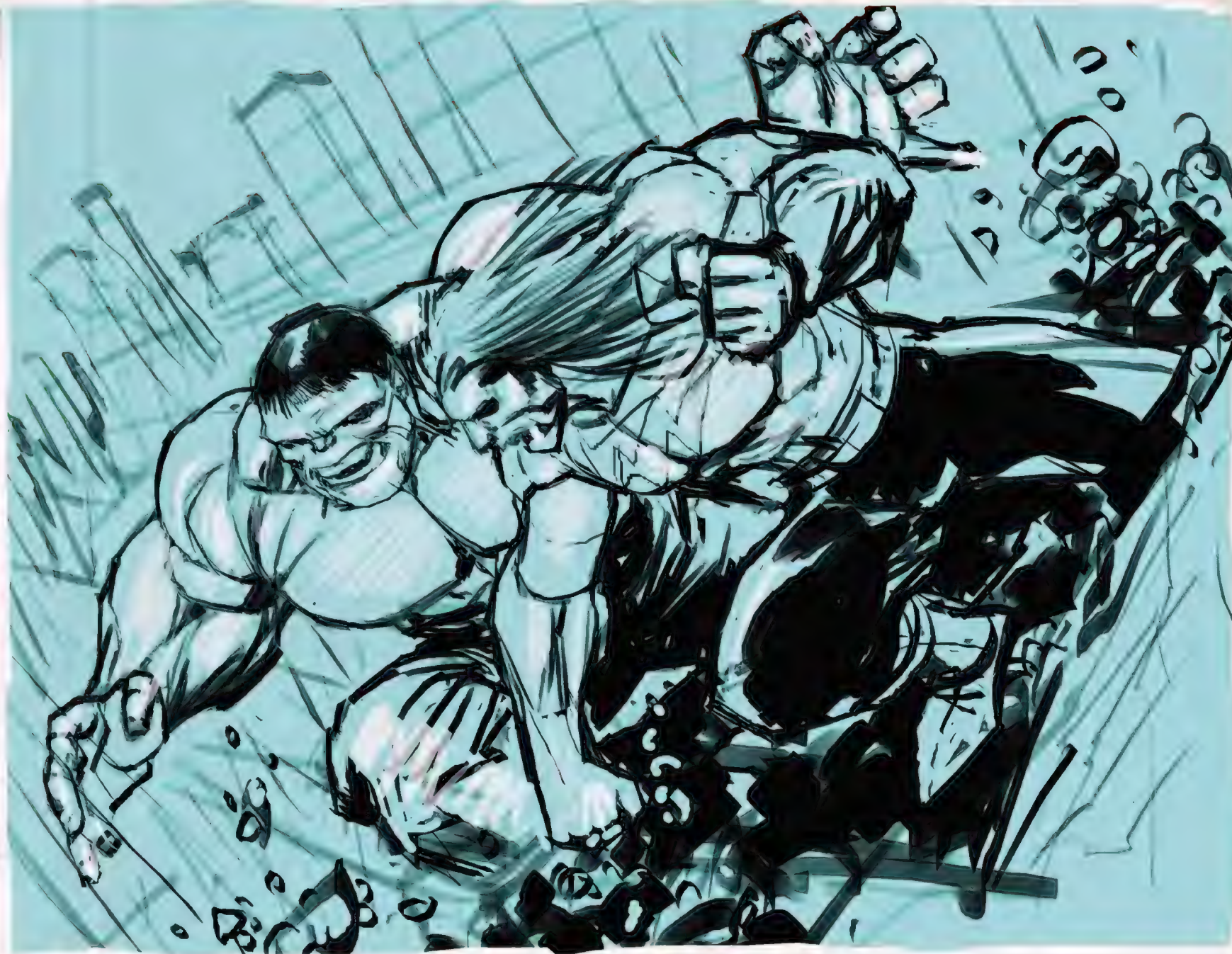
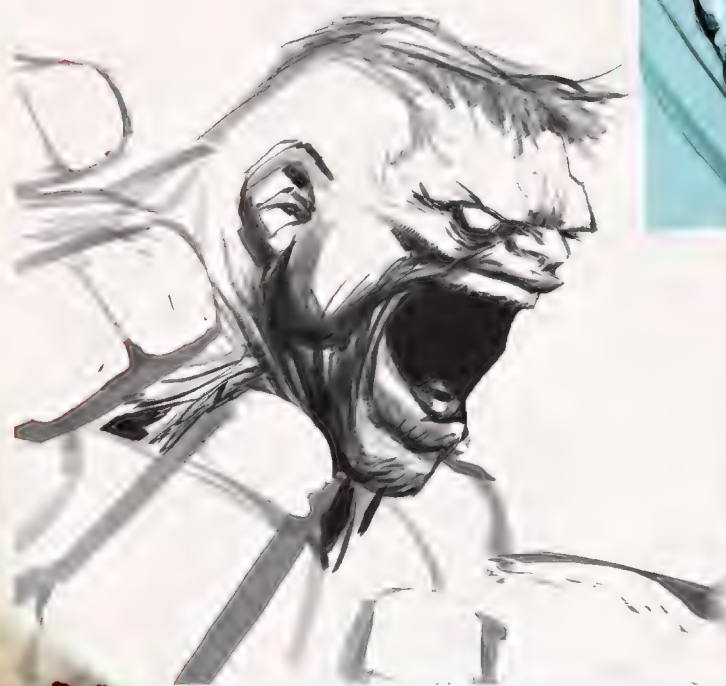
WHILCE PORTACIO

★ SKETCHBOOK & INTERVIEW ★

Rich!: It's been over ten years since your **HEROES REBORN** run on **IRON MAN** with Scott Lobdell and Jeph Loeb. How does it feel to be working on another one of Marvel's top tier characters?

Whilce!: Whenever I work on a character I like its like I've never been away. This is an interesting case because there are now two Hulks, and arguably they represent the two sides of his character. So, although there is a lot new to me about the character, because he's like an old friend, just a few minutes of catch up and we're back to the way it was.

Rich!: It's not widely known that you fell into diabetic coma in 2000 — and you were telling me at New York Comic Con how this meant you had to teach yourself to draw all over again. How do you think this has affected your work and your general outlook on life?



Whilce!: I was in the X-office doing X-Force and about to launch a new X-Men book when one day I felt real sleepy, and woke up in a dark hospital at night a week later. I had a blood sugar of 1600 bs and had gone through four dialysis, and flat-lined once. But I lost 32 pounds, so it evens out.

I joke because I have to, but when you go through that, you get out of the hospital and you can't do anything. You remember all that you could do, but your body is not as coordinated as it was before. It's almost like having a new body and trying to get it to work like the old one used to.

Anyways, I had no choice but to relearn to draw. I am not one to dwell on the negative; in fact I didn't ask my doctor what exactly happened to

me until a whole year later. I believe in going forward in all things.

But it is hard to teach an artist to be an artist; most artists learn how to be one by just stumbling along by their lonesome. This results in many great styles, but it has a major drawback. You do zillions of drawings, and remember the good ones and the feeling you had while doing them. So you learn to draw by instinct, basically meaning you draw until



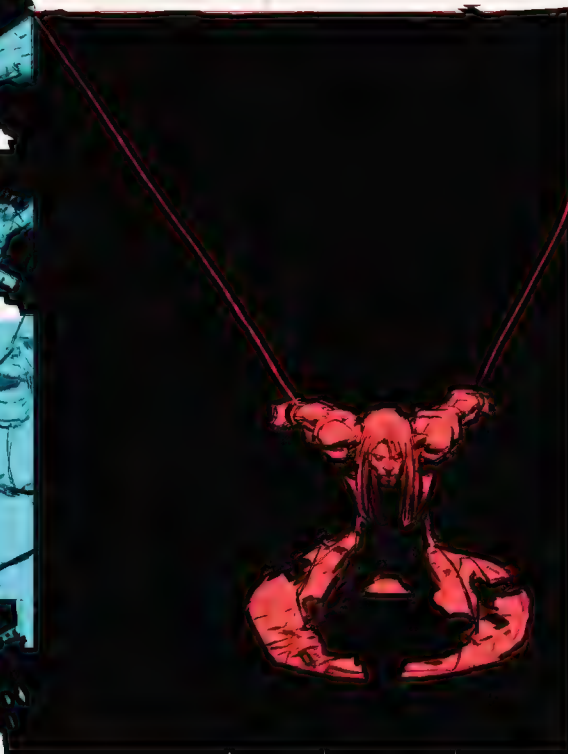
an inner sense tells you you are done. You try different things until you think it is right. Problem is, if you are asked to explain why you just did what you did, and why you made the choices you made, you cannot...because it is all instinct. The worst part is wondering if the next time you draw you will be able to achieve the quality you achieved the last time.

This time around I wanted to understand as much as I could of what I was doing and why. I wanted to make sure that during those deadline crunches when I can't concentrate, because I'm

sick or lack sleep, that I can still draw. So I did all the things I did in school — I painted again, I sketched with pastels, oils, acrylics. Relearned anatomy, shading, etc. All of the fundamentals. And after every exercise I tried to remember what I did and why.

Today I can say I am a more complete artist, and more importantly a more disciplined artist, and can enjoy my life more. Also, when I teach now, I can make aspiring artists aware of how to understand what it is we do.

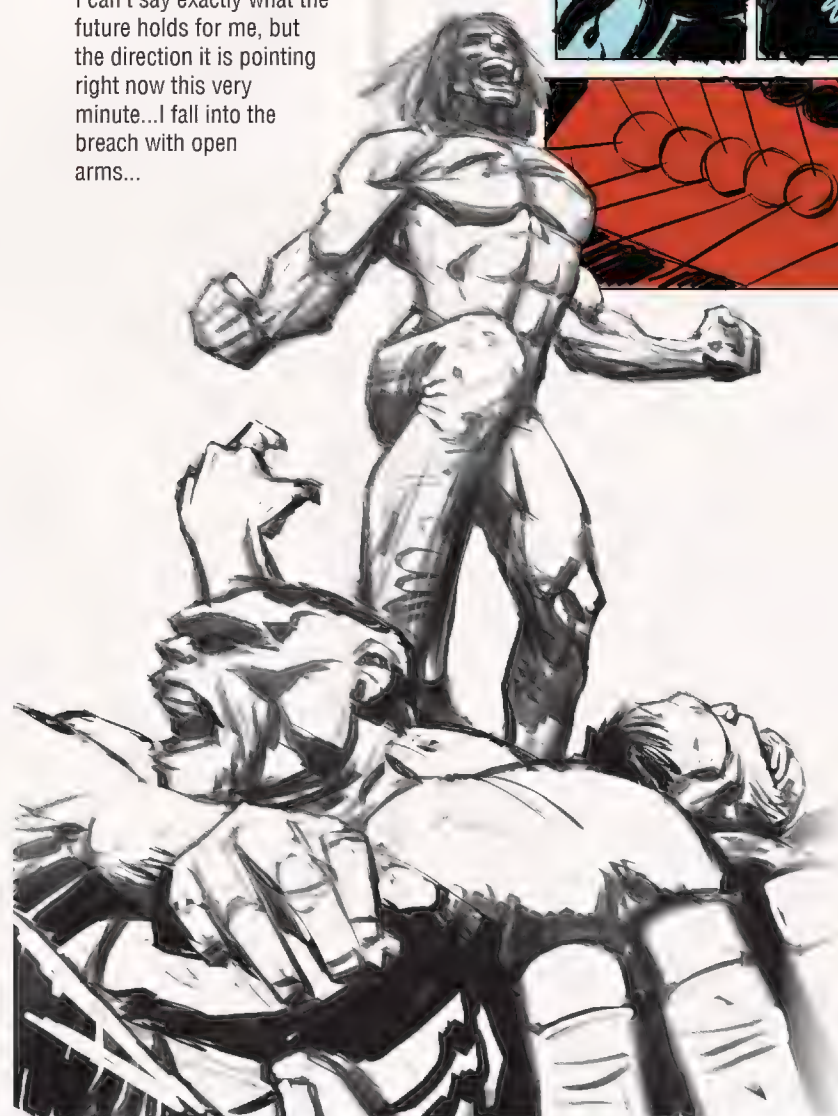
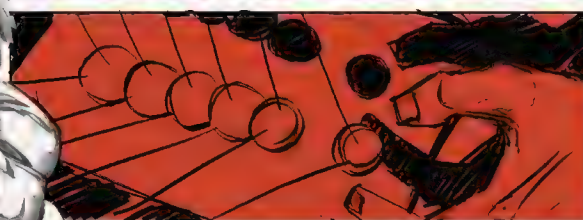
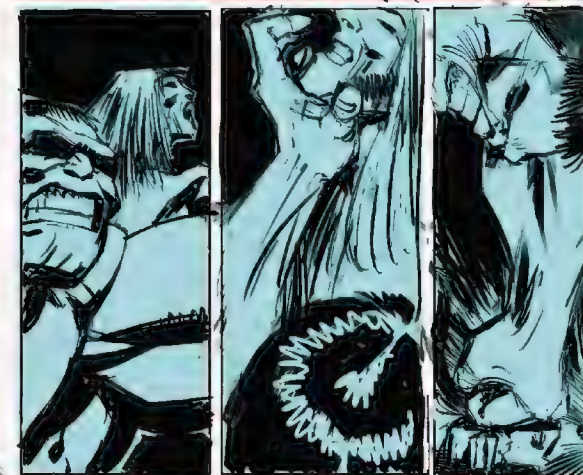




Rich!: Rumor has it that HULK is just a warm up for your triumphant return to X-MEN in 2010. How does it feel to return to the book that kick-started your career in comics and provided the launching pad for so many Image creators?

Whilce!: Worm Orobous Man! It feels right. I just did a job where I revisited some of the ole Uncanny team, but as ten year olds, and it felt so right. I was never at a loss, despite the many years between, for ideas on what to do with these characters that I had spent so much of my early career with. Scott especially has grown, and is still trying to grow into his role. All of them have new stories to tell me, and we just need a little time to catch up on what the years inbetween have wrought (Magneto an X-Man?!). Then from there on it's rock and roll baby!!!

I can't say exactly what the future holds for me, but the direction it is pointing right now this very minute...I fall into the breach with open arms...



SKETCHBOOK INTERVIEW

★ JEPH LOEB ★ WITH RICHARD STARKINGS

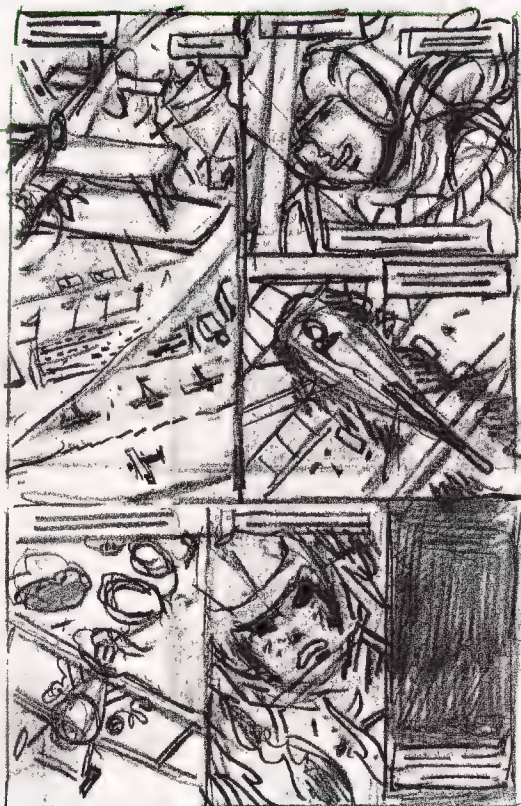
For more than a decade, one person has consistently worked with Jeph Loeb on all his comic book stories. While artists, pencilers, inkers, editors and colorists have come and gone, Richard Starkings — along with his merry Comcraftsmen — have lettered and designed Loeb's work through it all.

Dubbed "Loeb's good luck charm," Starkings is not only a superb craftsman, he's also a hugely talented writer/editor himself, and perhaps the most honest critic of Loeb's work. On the night after HULK #24 went on sale, marking the end of Loeb and McGuinness' three year run on HULK, Loeb sat down with Starkings to talk about all things red and green...

RICH: Jeph, right from the start of your run on Hulk, the series has been a chocolate box of characters and creators, but never more so than in this, your last collection...can you run us through all the artists featured in this handsome volume and perhaps talk about the qualities each artist brings to the table?

JEPH: What's unique about this collection is that it was mostly written when we started out three years ago. There was no way I could tell the story of the Red Hulk without knowing how it ended. So, from the first time I sat with editor Mark Paniccia, Ed McGuinness and I broke down who the Red Hulk was and how he came to be. We had all the pieces, we just now had to build the puzzle. While it would've been heavenly to tell the story with just Ed as the artist, the plain truth was Hulk needed to come out monthly (mostly!) and so others pencilers were brought in to continue the tale.

I couldn't have asked for a better group. Beginning with Frank Cho and Arthur Adams, who took on HULK #7-9 (available in HULK VOL. 2: RED & GREEN), and then picking up later with Ian Churchill and Whilce Portacio in HULK #14-18 (available in HULK VOL. 5: HULK VS. X-FORCE), HULK #23 then became the Contest of Champions as far as artists went. Ten astonishingly talented illustrators — each selected because they had, at least for me, made an indelible mark on THE HULK — all agreed to participate. I wrote the script from beginning to end with each of them in mind — and in fact, we wanted

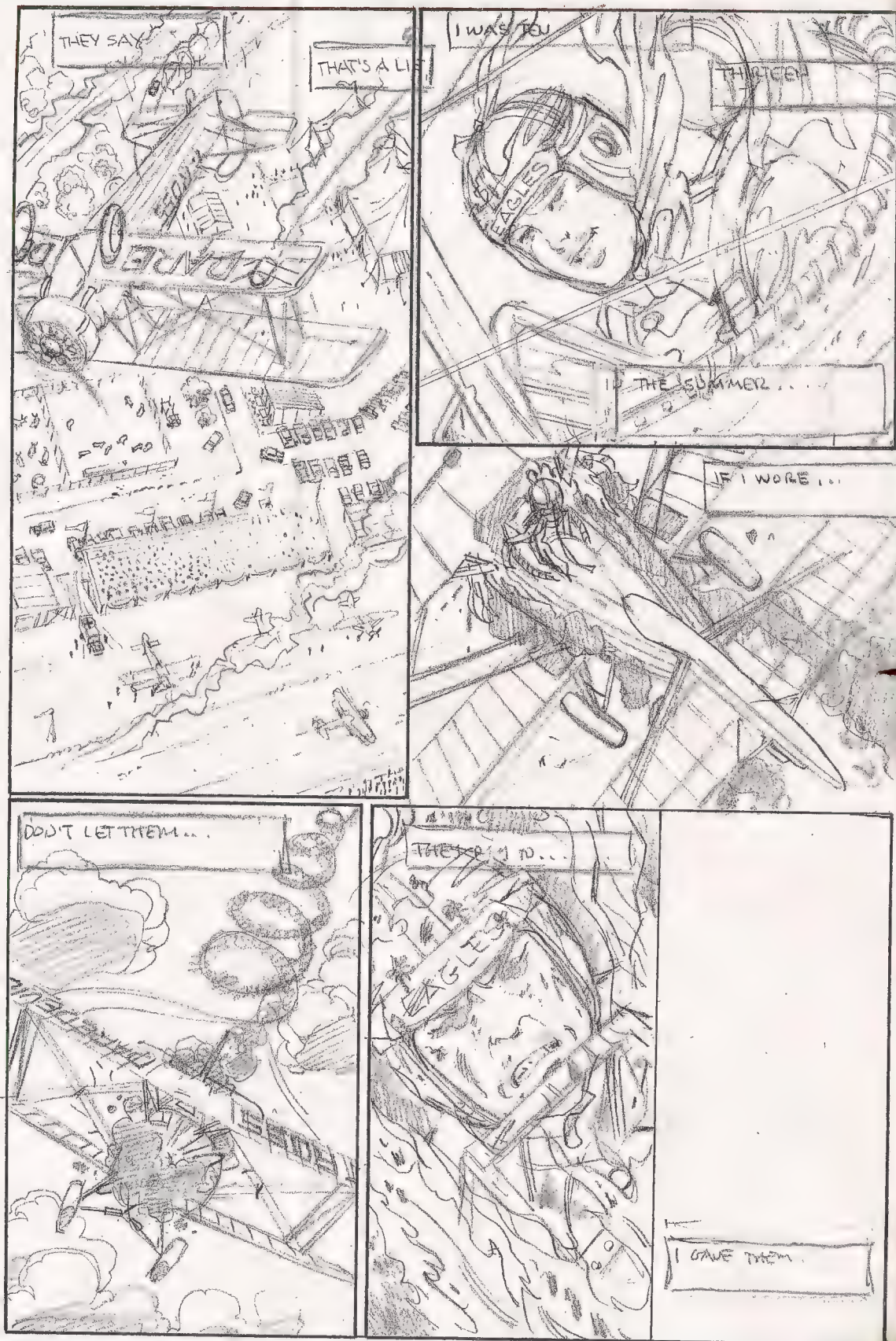


HERB TRIMPE

to keep the Red Hulk's identity a secret, so they were given false dialogue to make them think it was someone else!

RS: Let's start chronologically...I know I'm not the only creator out there that feels that Herb Trimpe put the credible in the Incredible Hulk...now, I know Herb only got to draw one page, but would it have been too much to ask for a cameo by Jarella?

JL: Working with Herb was such a pleasure and an honor. I started reading HULK when he was handling the art chores, so it was impossible not to get all nostalgic on him. Fortunately, I got to work with him earlier on the Abomination story that's in HULK VOL. 2: RED & GREEN so having to clip it down to one page of HULK #23 wasn't as hard for me. It was important, however, that he got page one. I had to make sure of that. As for Jarella, I did tip the hat in HULK #10-12 (Available in HULK VOL. 3: HULK NO MORE), but you knew that!



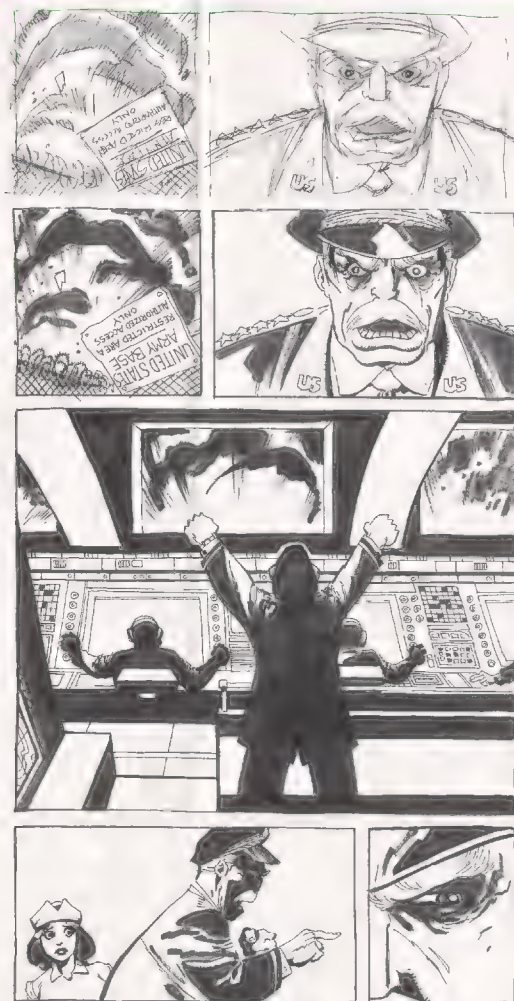
THE SALE

RS: Tim Sale! I know that you know I think HULK GRAY was the best of your Marvel COLOUR — yes, Jeph, it's spelt with a "U" — books, and readers familiar with that series will probably have guessed the Red Hulk's true identity. Do YOU feel that the 'who is the man and who is the monster' story that runs through RED HULK started in HULK GRAY? And yes, that IS a leading question...

JL: Well, as someone who spells "Jeff" as "Jeph" (blame my mom!), I'm not about to give you spelling lessons! But as to the HULK: GRAY of it all, working with Tim on that story will always stay with me. It was a chance to revisit "the stories within the pages of the stories" you already knew. In this case, Betty's relationship with her father and Ross' relationship with the Hulk was very important not only to HULK: GRAY, but to the mythos started nearly fifty years ago by Stan Lee and Jack Kirby. Stan and Jack taught Tim and me how the best Marvel comics are ones where it's not "a soap opera where suddenly a fight breaks out" but "a fight where suddenly a soap opera breaks out." I'd like to think that everything that is in The Red Hulk was set up for us by Stan and Jack!



Working with Timmy again on HULK — it wasn't a choice, it was mandatory. We were going back to the beginning to the HULK: GRAY period, and it would've been blasphemy to do it with anyone else. Fortunately, he found the time and the pages are gorgeous.



Panels from HULK: GRAY #1
by Tim Sale, Sept. 2003



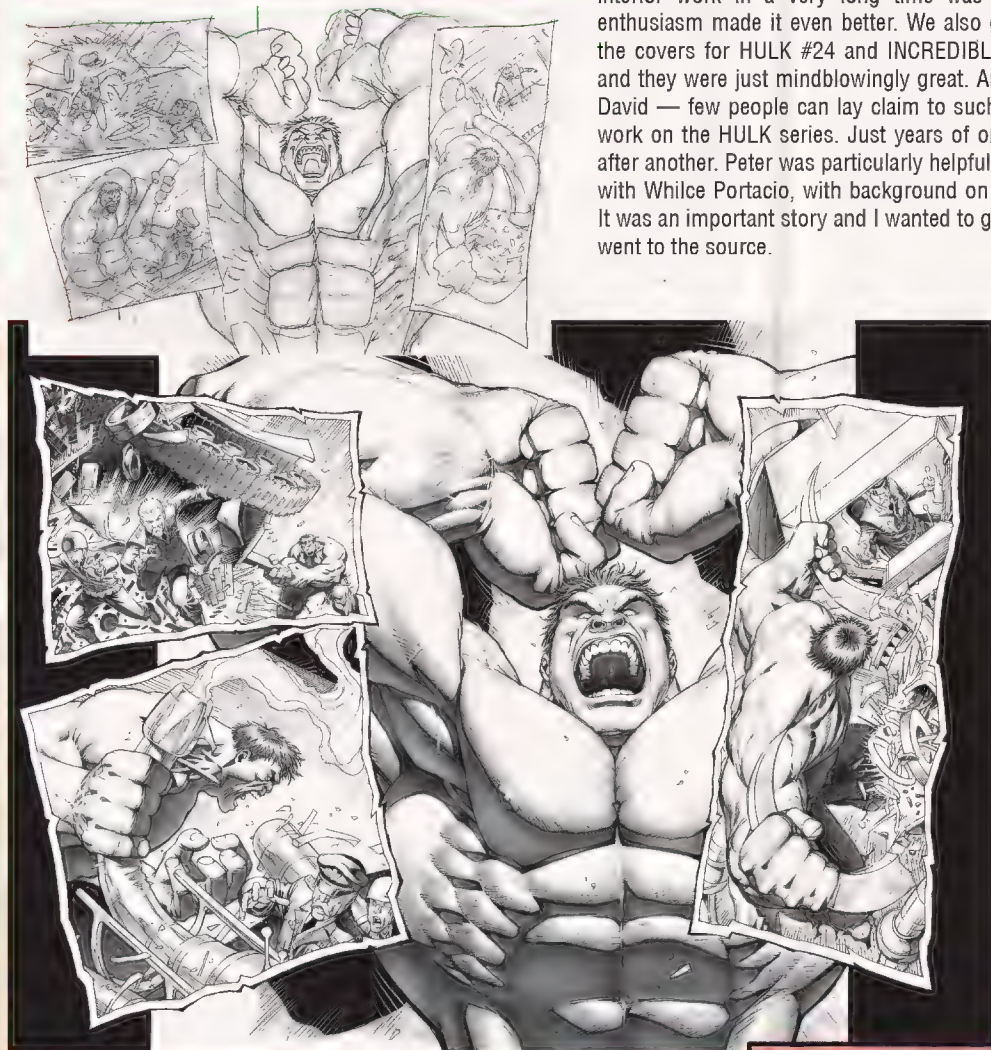
Panels from
HULK: GRAY
#2 by Tim Sale,
Oct. 2003



DALE KEOWN

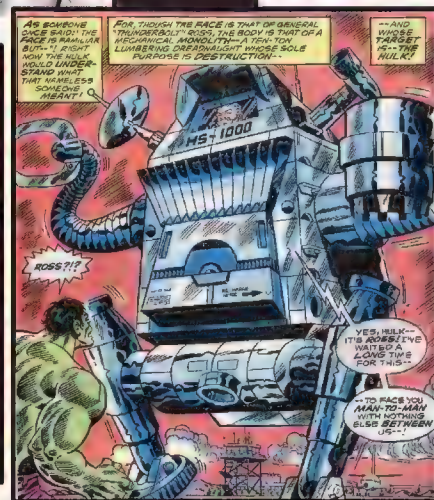
RS: Dale Keown — I remember seeing the Peter David/Keown Hulk with a machine gun and thinking, how can something be so wrong and yet look so right? Any feelings about their smart Hulk and Gray Hulk — um, Grulk? — series?

JL: Getting Dale to come back to Marvel for his first interior work in a very long time was amazing. His enthusiasm made it even better. We also got him to do the covers for HULK #24 and INCREDIBLE HULK #611 and they were just mindblowingly great. And as to Peter David — few people can lay claim to such monumental work on the HULK series. Just years of one great story after another. Peter was particularly helpful on HULK #18 with Whilce Portacio, with background on Doc Samson. It was an important story and I wanted to get it right, so I went to the source.



Panel from INCREDIBLE HULK #131 by Herb Trimpe & John Severin, Sept. 1970

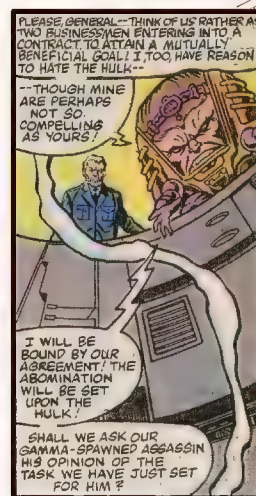
Preliminary sketch for the cover of HULK #24



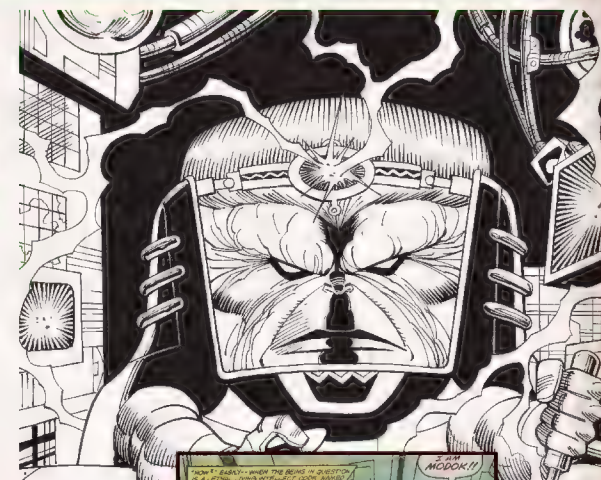
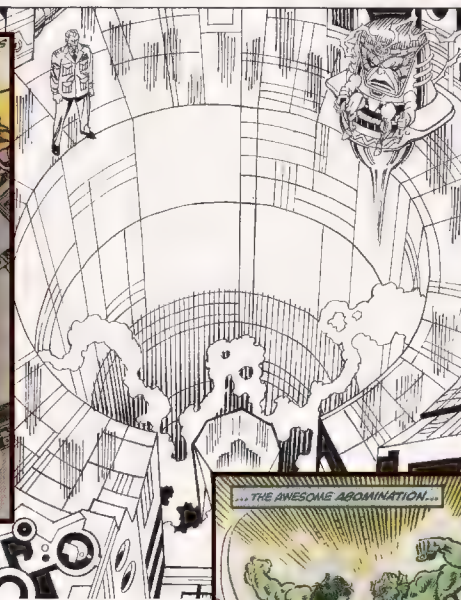
BUSCEMA

RS: Anyone reading Marvel UK's HULK comic in the '80s — and I'd have been one of them — will remember Sal Buscema's long run on INCREDIBLE in glorious black and white — for a shilling, Mister, just a shilling. What are your memories of Sal's Big Green Guy?

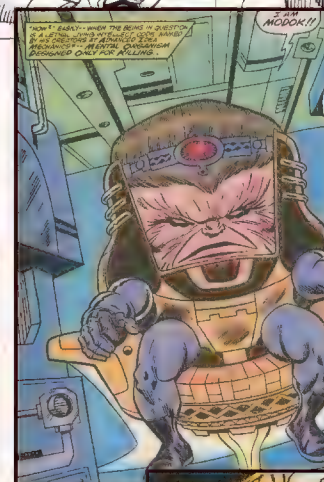
JL: I'm not quite sure what a shilling is, but you when you say it with that British accent, it sounds very expensive! Along with Herb, Sal really set the table for the Hulk for me. He had such power in the work. I wanted him so badly that I drove associate editor Nate Cosby insane with messages asking if we'd heard from Sal yet. All I was told was that Sal didn't pencil any longer, but he'd be interested in inking someone else. Fortunately, Nate pressed on (and I hope gave Sal my passionate pleas), and for the first time in many years, Sal both penciled and inked his pages. Thrilling.



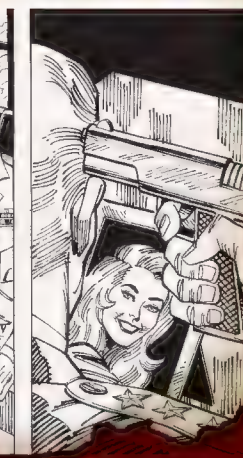
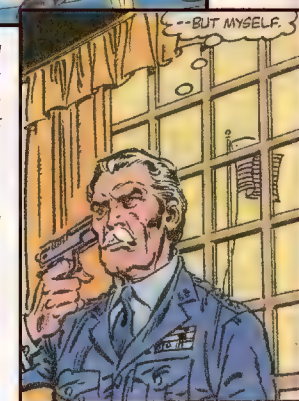
Panel from INCREDIBLE HULK #288 by Buscema & Jim Mooney, Oct. 1983



Page from INCREDIBLE HULK #287 by Sal Buscema & Chic Stone, Sept. 1983



Right and below: panels from INCREDIBLE HULK #291 by Buscema & Gerry Talao, Jan. 1984



Panel from INCREDIBLE HULK

CHURCHILL

RS: I remember being excited about John Byrne coming onto HULK after his "Back to Basics" approach to THE FANTASTIC FOUR. Now, even though Byrne didn't last very long, contribute to this issue, his new look for Bruce — complete with the "brainy specs" — and Betty carried over into the Dale Keown issues, who, I think steered a radically different course than Byrne had intended, including that haircut which Ian Churchill captured brilliantly in his pages for #23. Ian Churchill recently told me, "Well, when Jeph calls and offers you the Hulk, you know it's going to be fun." But I have to be honest, I was not expecting Deadpool, Domino, Elektra, The Punisher, Arch Angel, Wolverine and Red She-Hulk.

JL: There were a few folks who couldn't contribute that I wish we could've gotten, but due to scheduling it couldn't happen. Who knows, maybe someday Ed and I will return and there'll be another chance to get to put together such a first rate cast!

Ian was the first and best choice for this period, since it was around the time that Todd McFarlane and Gary Frank were contributing to the legend. Ian swam in those circles and his style fit so wonderfully.

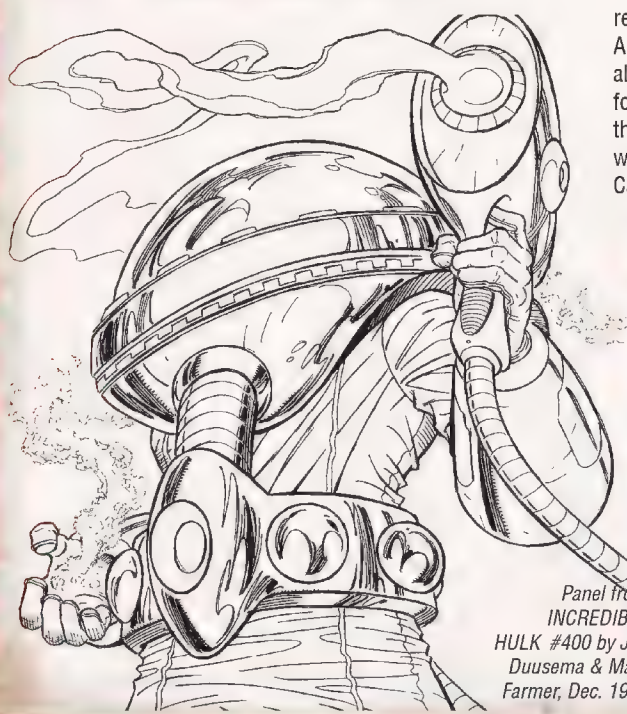
RS: Any comments on your favorite Hulk hairstyle, Jeph? Any plans for HULK with a mullet in the near future? It's completely unexplored territory.



JL: I'll dodge that one — but I won't dodge the issue that so many folks still bring up. (SPOILER ALERT!) Once it was revealed who the Red Hulk was in his civilian identity, everyone wanted to know what happened to the moustache. There are some things that, no matter how you explain them, you can't satisfy folks. (Gow do Banner's pants stretch and turn purple every time he Hulks out? Wouldn't they just shred? Where do Banner's eyeglasses go?) And the disappearing moustache remains a hot topic. I spent some time talking with Stan "The Man" Lee about another "monster" character — The Fantastic Four's Ever Lovin' Blue Eyed Thing — and it was Stan who reminded me that when The Thing reverted back to his Aunt Petunia's favorite nephew, Ben Grimm, Ben would always have a full head of hair! And if that doesn't work for you, how about this: since the muscle mass increases the Red Hulk's cellular structure, the moustache retracts within the red flesh like ingrown hairs in body fat! Um... Can we move away from this now?



Panel from
INCREDIBLE
HULK #400 by Jan
Duusema & Mark
Farmer, Dec. 1992



LEINIL YU

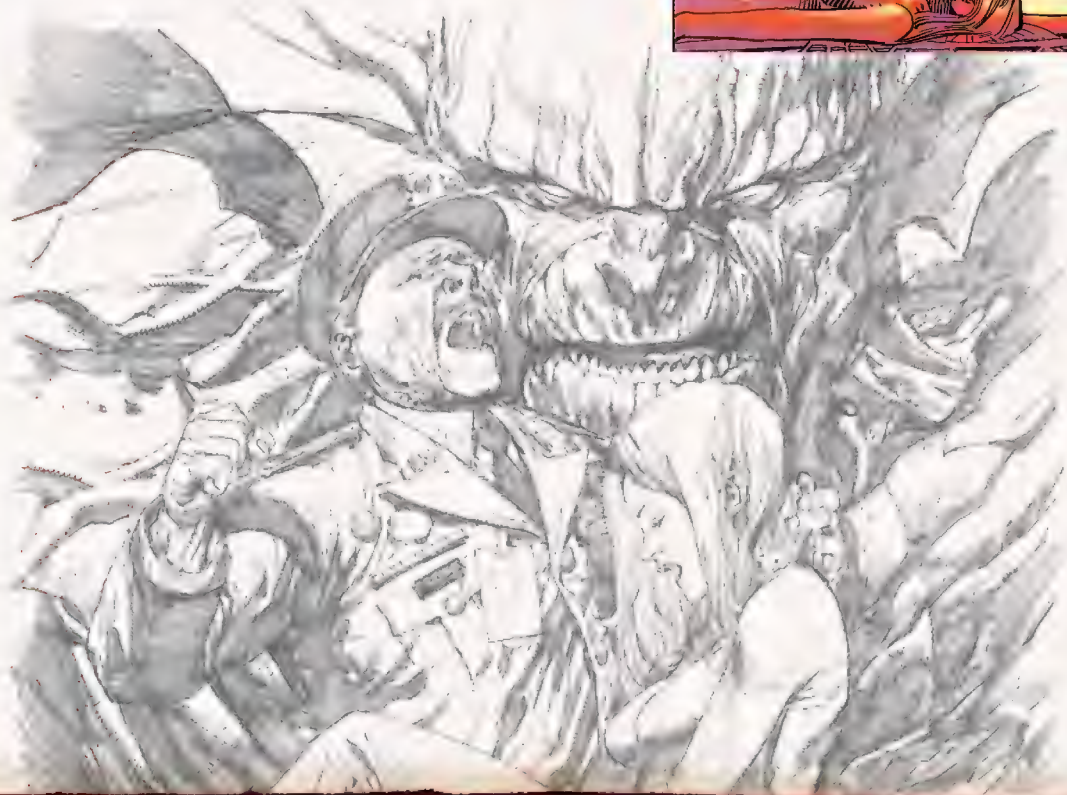
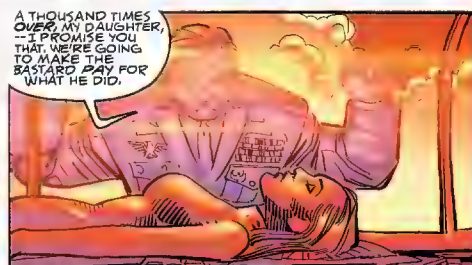
RS: I think I'm right in saying that Leinil Yu is more closely associated with **ULTIMATE HULK**, but here again is another artist who knocked it out of the park for you. Any chance of seeing the two of you on a series together in the near future?

JL: I did bend the rules a bit with Leinil because his contribution was to **ULTIMATE HULK** and not the Marvel Universe Hulk, but I plead the fanboy in me. First off, I think that Ultimate Hulk vs. Ultimate Wolverine story he did with *Lost* creator (and pal) Damon Lindelof will withstand the test of time, and be remembered as one of the great Hulk stories, period. Secondly, I just had to see Leinil draw the Leader and MODOK. Had to. And so he did! Rocked the house!

Lastly, I'd been wanting to work with Leinil ever since he first exploded on the scene with **WOLVERINE**. We got our first chance on a little-seen back up story in **THE FANTASTIC FOUR** where The Thing tries to give The Dragon Man as a birthday present to Franklin Richards. It was just this five-page story, and I was paired with Leinil, who I thought might just doodle it out...but when the pages came in, I wanted to cry they were so pretty! Leinil gave the maximum effort even when he didn't need to, and that spirit is what makes him great to this day. So, yes, I'd love to work with him on anything, anytime!



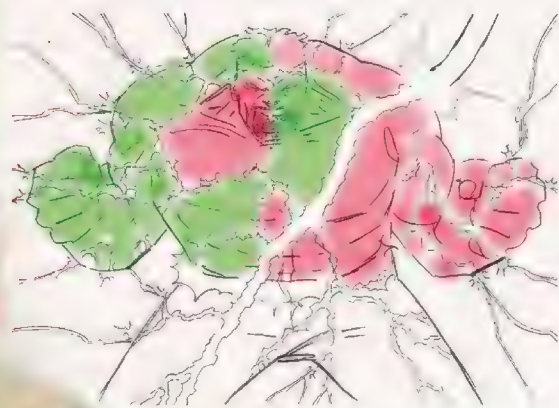
Panel from
HULK #24
by John
Romita Jr.,
March 2000



ADAM KUBERT

RS: Lastly, Adam Kubert did that spectacular wraparound cover. Given the years he spent illustrating the Green Goliath, you couldn't spare him any pages?

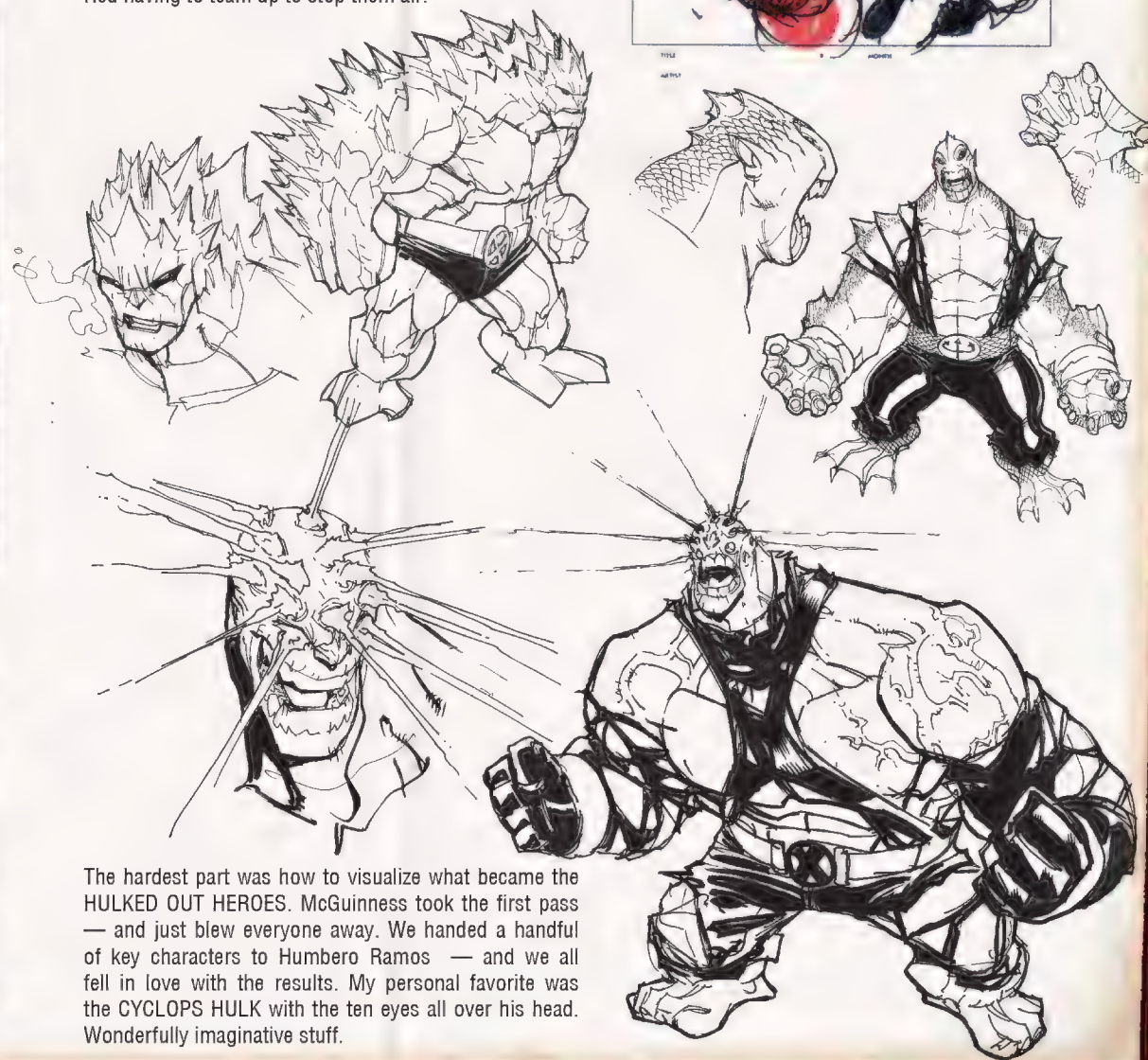
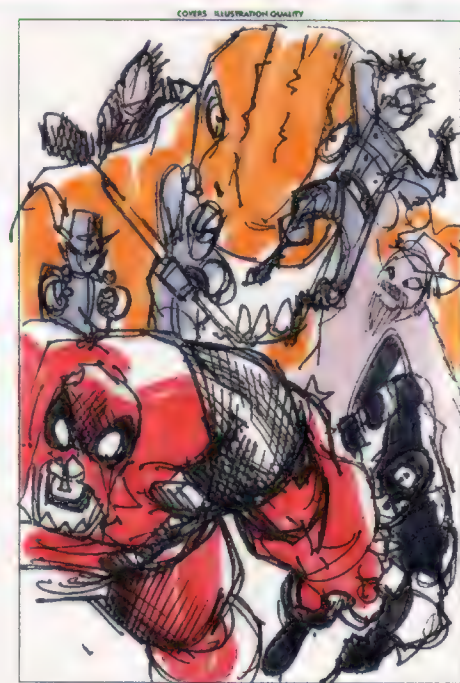
JL: I wish! I begged and pleaded with the Powers that Be — but Adam is under such demand that just getting him for the cover was a gift. He knocked it out of the park too! Love his stuff. Love to find time for both of us to do something, anything.



HUMBERTO RAMOS

RS: So, HULKED OUT HEROES...whose wacky idea was that?

JL: I'd like to think it was all of ours. WORLD WAR HULKS was very much a team effort of Greg Pak, Jeff Parker, Fred Ven Lente, Ed McGuinness and the editorial wunderkinds, Jordan White, Nate Cosby and Mark Paniccia. After a week-long Hulk conference where we bonded into "the Hulk Pak," we talked about how we could really separate ourselves from the first WORLD WAR HULK, which Greg Pak and John Romita Jr. did such an amazing job on. That story was focused on the world versus the Hulk, so this time around we thought — what if the world was turned into HULKS, and our heroes were now Green and Red having to team up to stop them all?



The hardest part was how to visualize what became the HULKED OUT HEROES. McGuinness took the first pass — and just blew everyone away. We handed a handful of key characters to Humberto Ramos — and we all fell in love with the results. My personal favorite was the CYCLOPS HULK with the ten eyes all over his head. Wonderfully imaginative stuff.

MIKE DEODATO JR.

RS: Okay, let's talk about Mike Deodato Jr. — Mike's art seems to evolve every time he comes close to the Hulk. What took you so long to get around to bringing him on to the RED HULK storyline? His pages are amazing!

JL: Mike was one of the last guys who agreed to come on board. He's so busy these days with Marvel's #1 franchise THE AVENGERS, and crowbarring him out of there was no simple task. What I love about his pages is that they remain true to McGuinness' spirit — since Ed drew them the first time around — but they are distinctly Mike's as well. When Mike turned in his pages we knew we'd hit a home run with the issue.



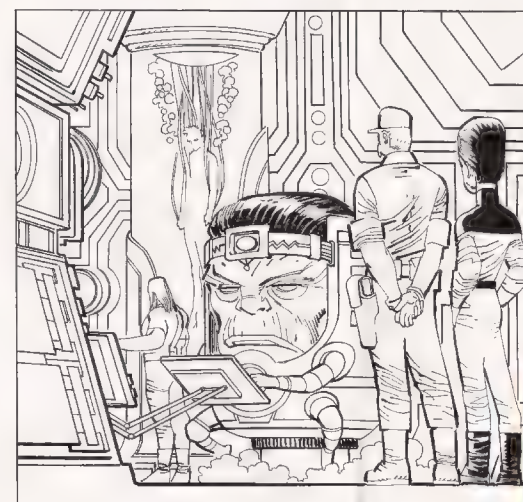
Spread from HULK #6 by Ed McGuinness & Dexter Vines, Sept. 2008



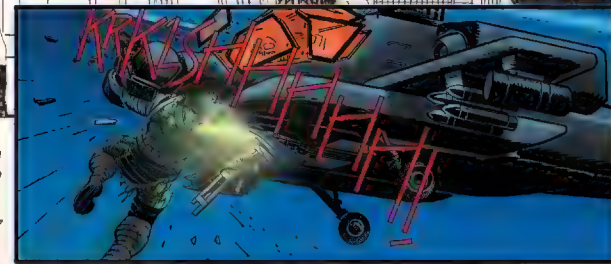
JOHN ROMITA JR.

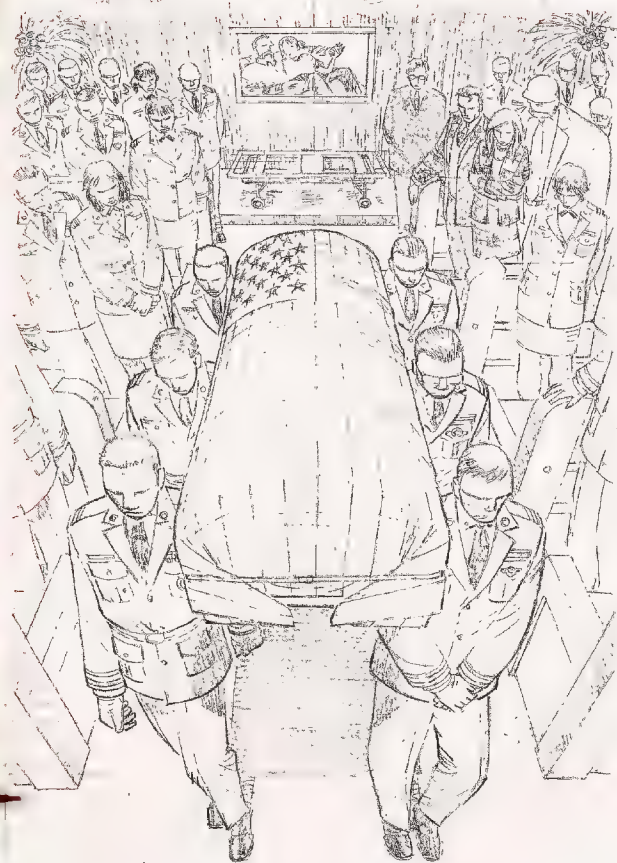
RS: It seems strange that John Romita Jr. hasn't worked extensively on the Hulk until recently. He is perhaps the one Marvel artist these days who you assume has drawn EVERY Marvel character there is...but it's in his genes of course, isn't it?

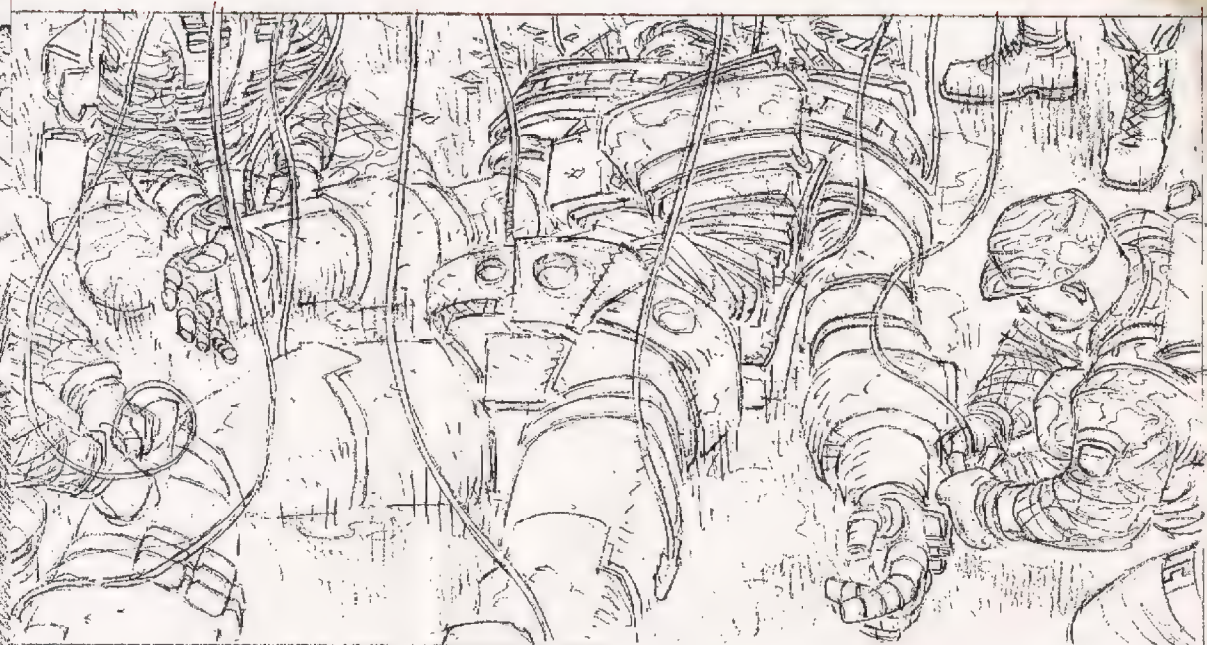
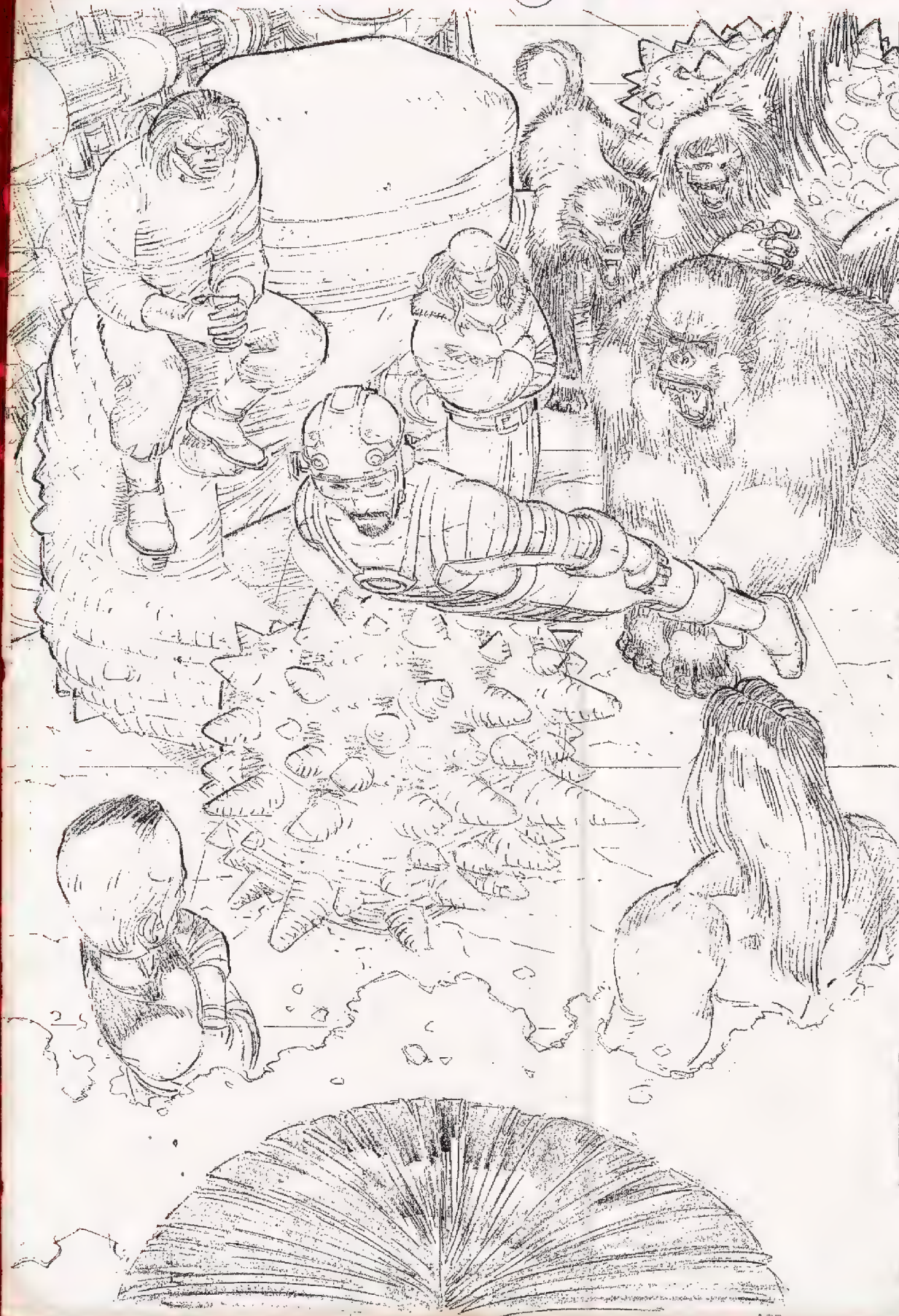
JL: The plain truth is that Johnny can draw ANYTHING — and do it superbly. He's comics royalty, and I count my lucky stars any time we get to work together. His Hulk has such raw power and sheer energy. He also really gave Ross some backbone in WORLD WAR HULK — so Ross didn't come off as the old man that he sometimes slips into. We borrowed heavily from that whenever Ross was in the scene.

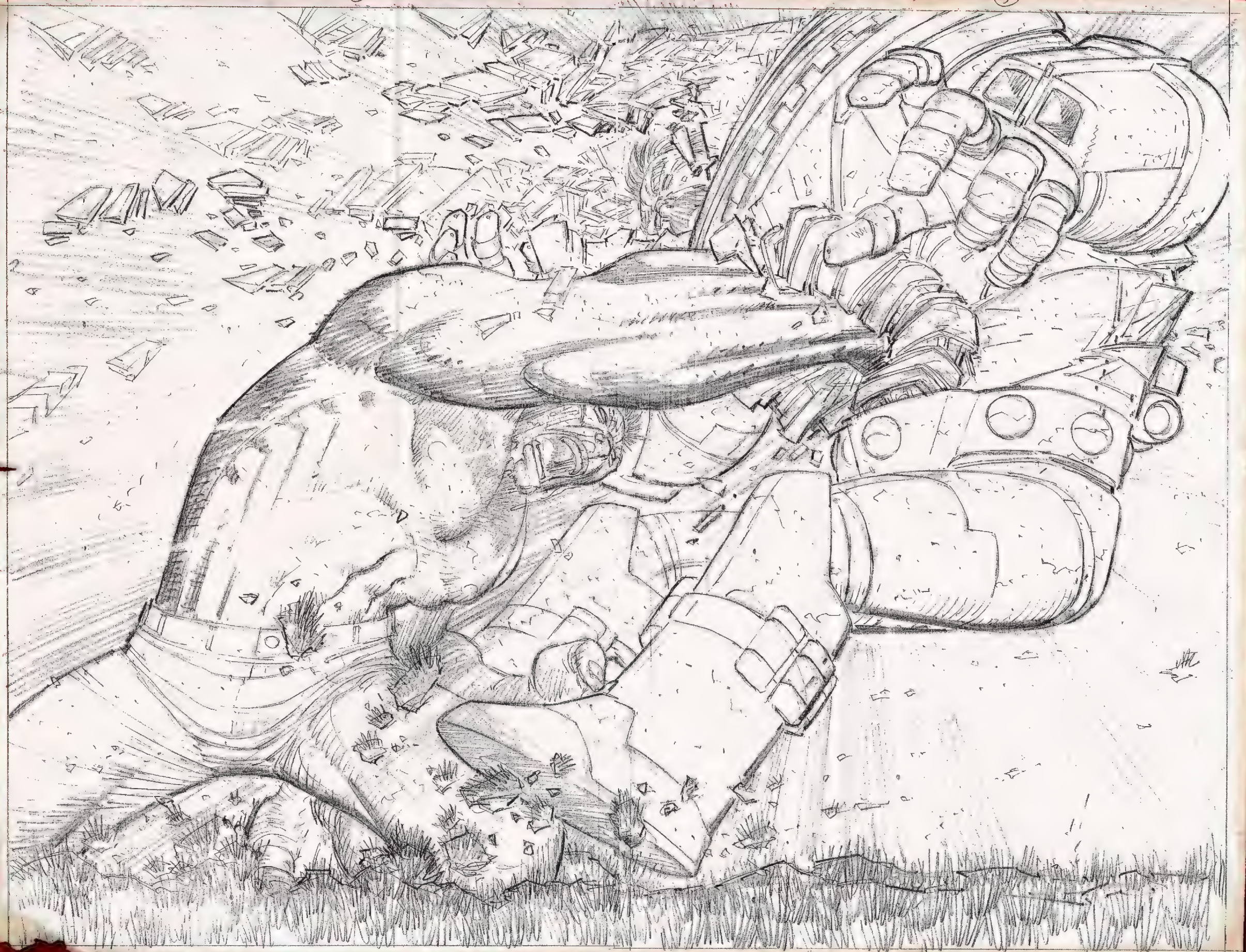


Panel from WORLD WAR HULK #3, July 2007









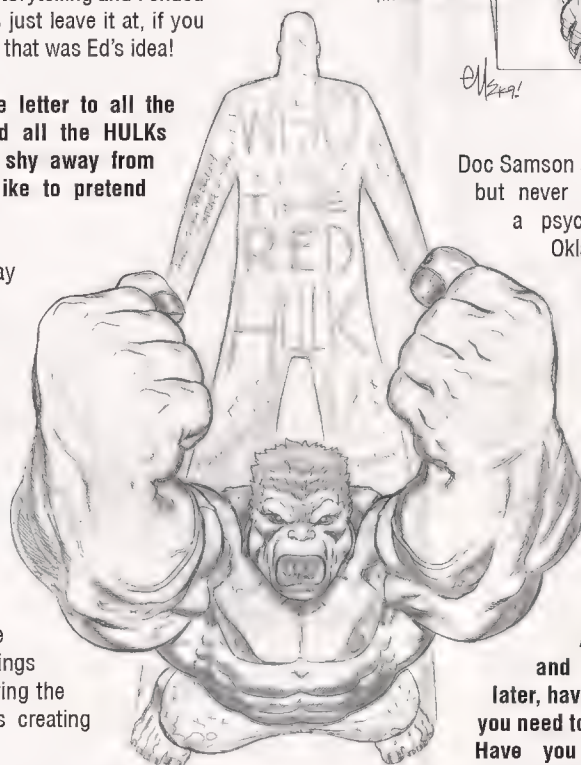
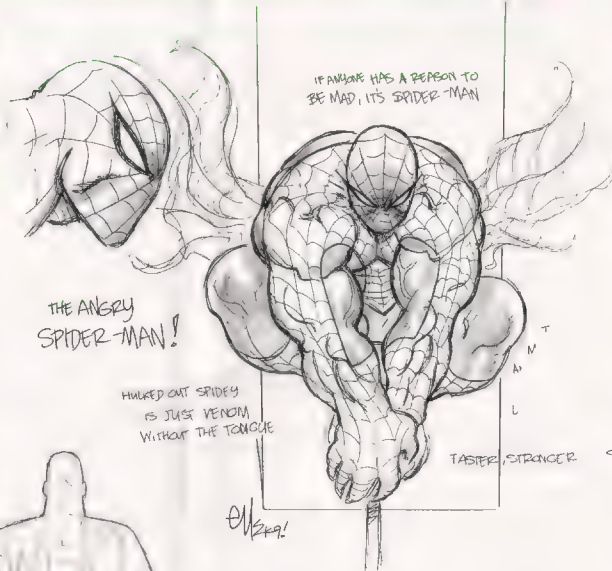
Ed McGuinness

RS: Ed McGuinness. RED HULK/GREEN HULK is the story Ed was born to draw. Discuss!

JL: The size, scope, the power and the pride — all of that only comes with Ed when you do a Hulk story. As much as I adored everyone who worked on the series, Ed came first. He was my copilot on so much of what we did — the line between where he started storytelling and I ended became such a blur at times. Let's just leave it at, if you thought something was supercool, that was Ed's idea!

RS: Issue #23 reads like a love letter to all the artists you've worked with...and all the HULKS you've loved before. You don't shy away from storylines other writers might like to pretend never happened, do you?

JL: There was no way to shy away from the past, since the Red Hulk was so tied into every story. What made it even more magical was that we kept tripping over (or in some cases just remembering) that there'd been a connection. The Ross/MODOK/Abomination tie that went all the way back to INCREDIBLE HULK #287 was like finding that piece that you've been looking for in a 1000 piece jigsaw puzzle. We knew it was there, but when we discovered it, it fit so perfectly. Things like that happened all the time during the storytelling process. Roy Thomas creating

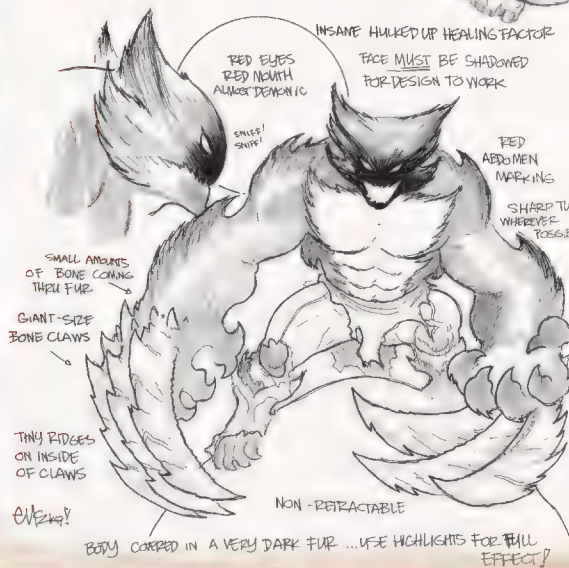


Doc Samson and the Cathexis Ray, but never quite explained how a psychiatrist from Tulsa, Oklahoma managed to build it and get it onto a military base, and left us an opening to hitch it with A.I.M. As a reader, my hope is it's satisfying to see we'd done our homework, but as a fanboy — it's just fun!

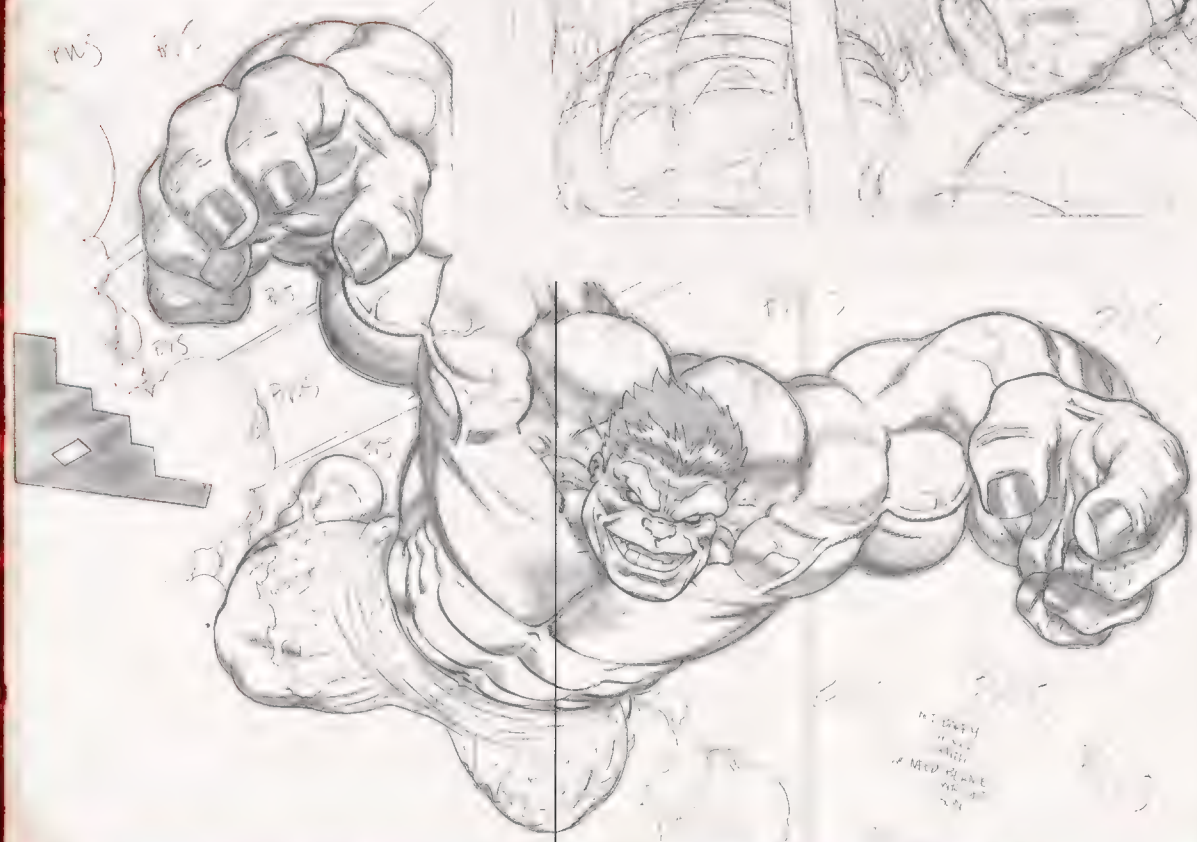
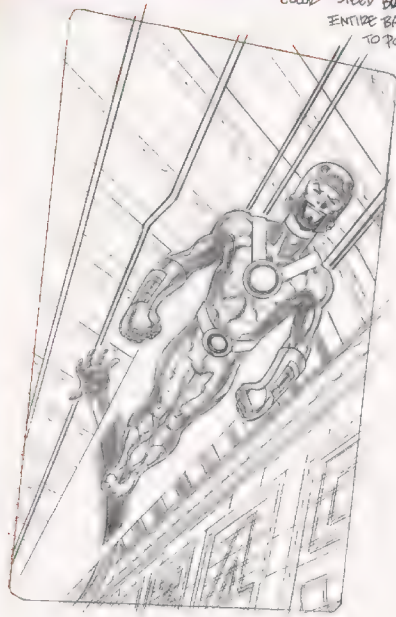
RS: So, three years, 24 issues, A KING SIZED HULK and GAMMA SPECIAL later, have you said everything you need to say about the Hulk? Have you thanked everyone you'd like to thank?

JL: We told the story we set out to tell. That's the thing I'm most proud of. We laid it out and brought the Red Hulk into the Marvel Universe. There were rumors that we'd changed the story, but it was all there from the beginning. What makes it even more...ahem...INCREDIBLE...is now Brian Michael Bendis is taking Red and bringing him into the Avengers. It's like watching your child go off to college! And it's the best school in the country!

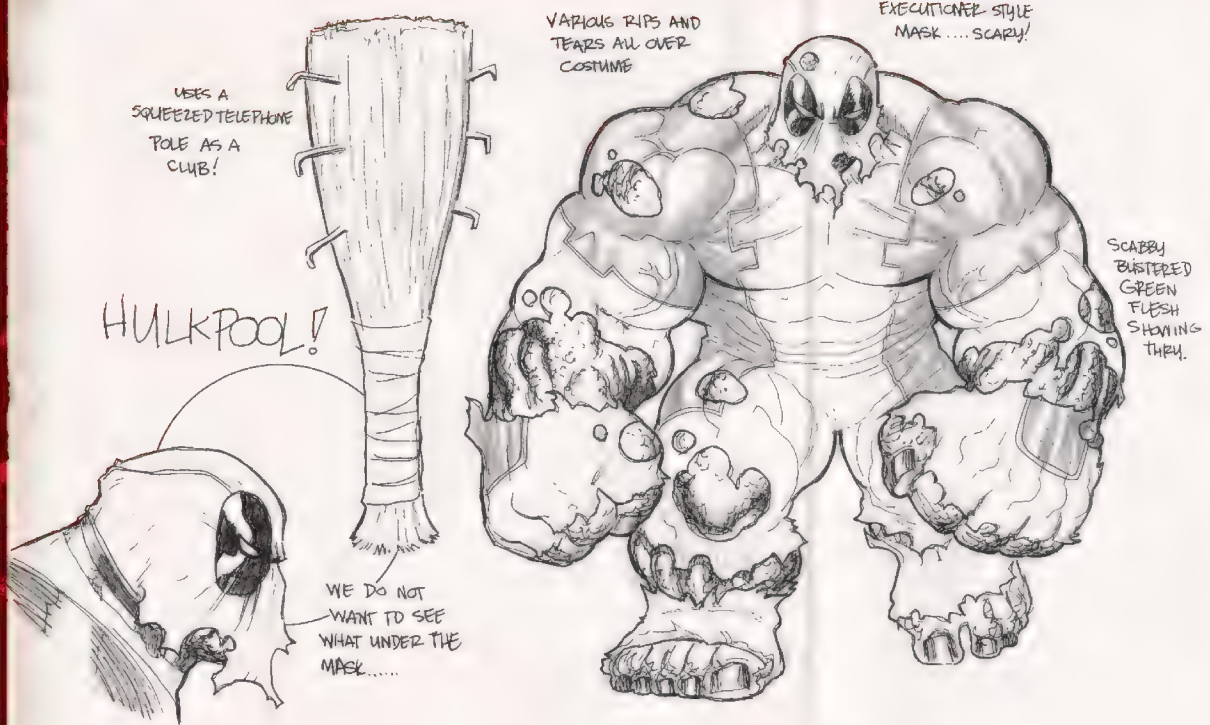
The only people left to thank (there's a long list at the end of this volume) are the ones who I can never thank enough: the readers. I've often said I don't get to do what I get to do without them. So, again, thank you all for taking the ride, for believing in me and Ed. We hope you enjoyed the show!



COLOR - SPEED BLUR
ENTIRE BACKGROUND
TO POP MR. FANTASTIC
AND THE WIZARD!



MR. FANTASTIC
AND THE WIZARD
MAR 1968



USES A
SQUEEZED TELEPHONE
POLE AS A
CLUB!

HULKPOOL!

WE DO NOT
WANT TO SEE
WHAT UNDER THE
MASK.....

VARIOUS RIPS AND
TEARS ALL OVER
COSTUME

EXECUTIONER-STYLE
MASK..... SCARY!

SCABBY
BUSTED
GREEN
FLESH
SHOWING
THRU.



FALLING
FROM
SKY ->

ENERGY AND KIRBY BRACKLE FLOWING OF
OFF RED HULK

CRAZY ENRAGED GREEN GETTING SLIGHT
UPPER HAND



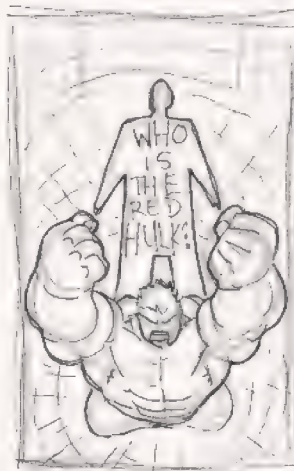
BODY IS COVERED WITH WHIRLING
ELECTRIC MARKINGS

HAIR AND
EYES ARE
GLOWING
ELECTRIC
BLUE!

HANDS ARE
LIT WITH ELECTRIC
CURRENTS

TORN
CAPE IS NOW
WOVEN AROUND
WAIST!
BRONZE
MEDALLIONS FROM
CHAIN ARE HANGING FROM
CAPE!

THE MIGHTY
THOR!
THOR HAS BECOME
THE LIVING EMBODIMENT
OF THUNDER AND
LIGHTNING!



VERY SLOW AND SIMPLE
SPEECH!
PEEPERS TO HIMSELF
AS NO-THINGS!

POSTURE HAS CHANGED
...MUCH MORE LUMBERING!

ROCK SKIN HAS BECOME
PLATED AND VERY JAGGED
...CHITANEIOUS(SPELLING?)

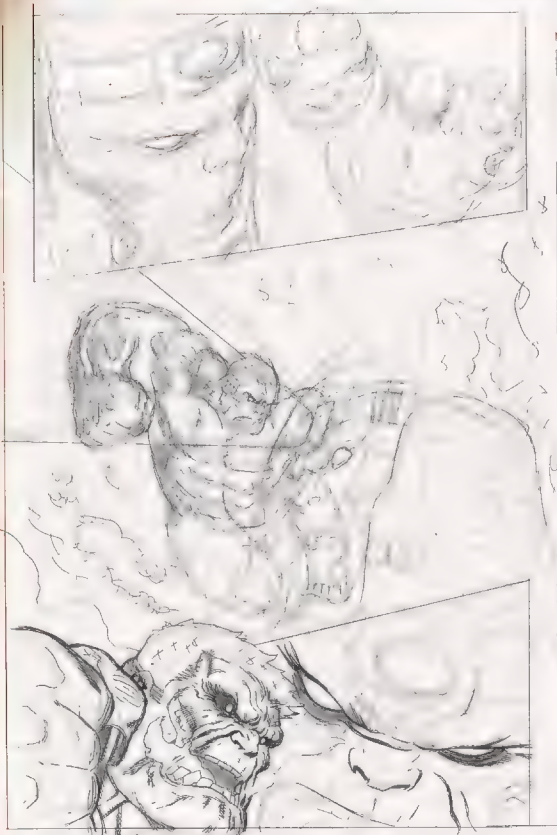
THE
NO-THING!



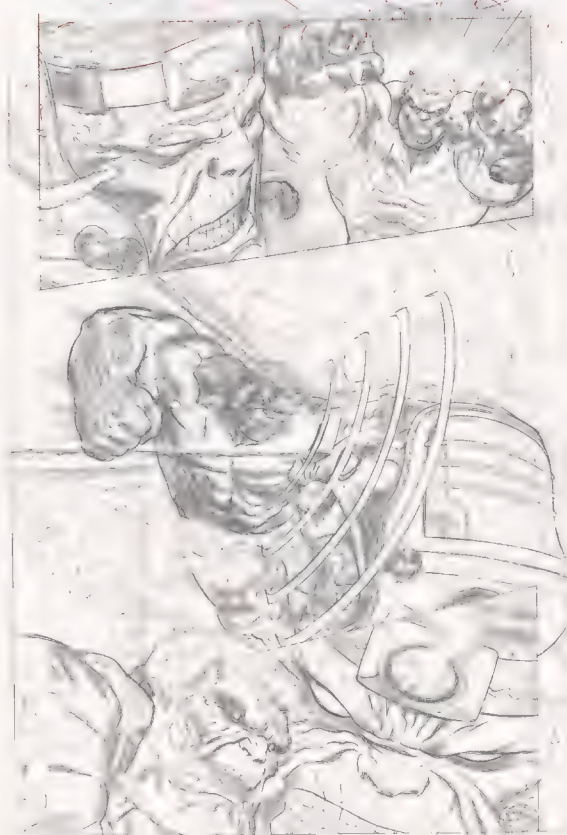
HAS GROWN IN
SIZE TO BE LARGER
THAN THE HULK
(NOT SECOND
BEST ANYMORE)

ew! ew!





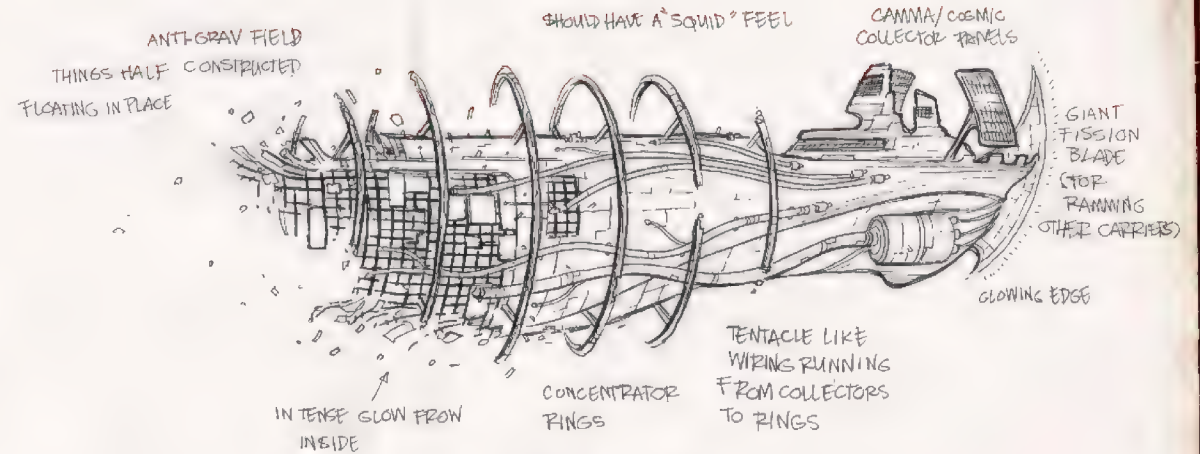
HULK 14 14



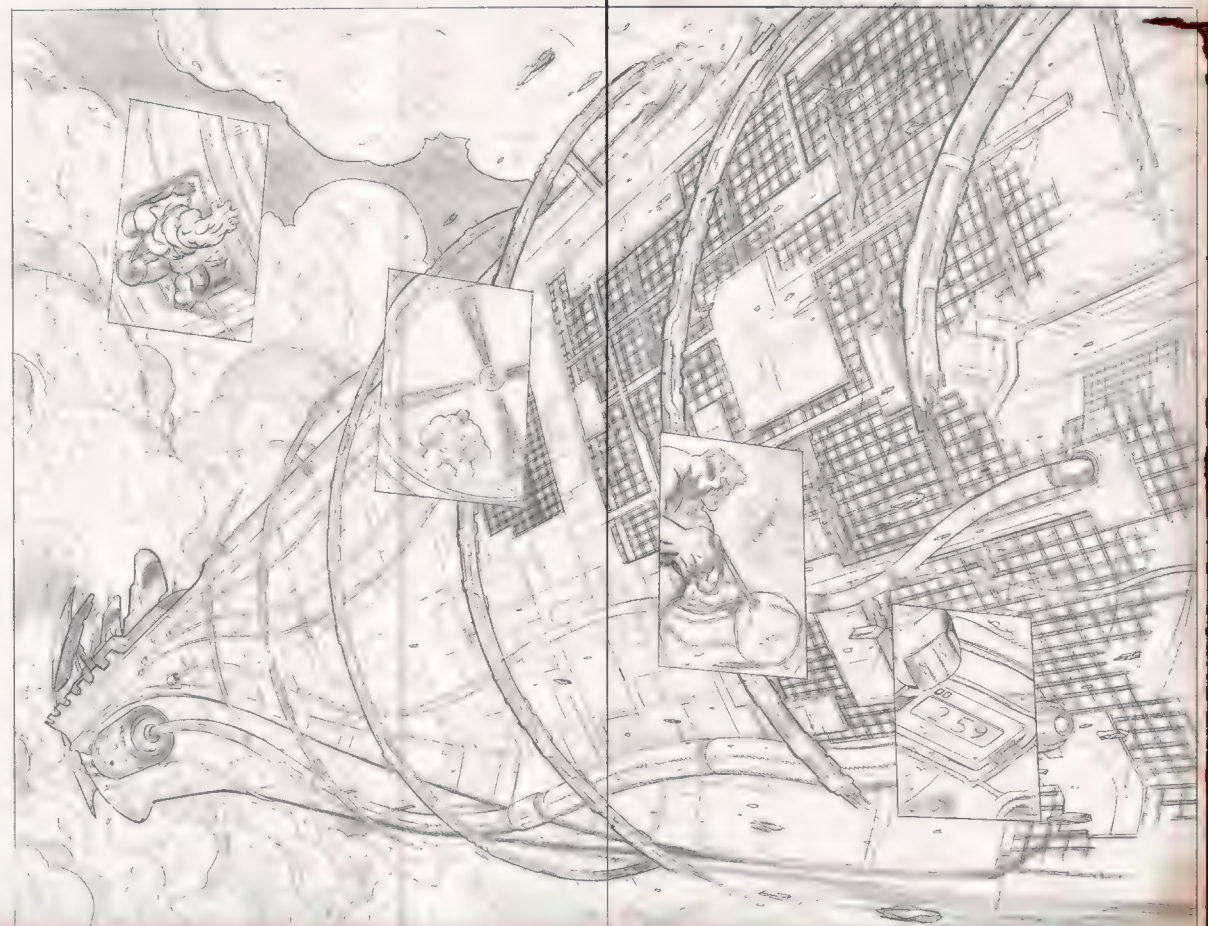
HULK 19 15



FRONT TUN, WITH FRANKIE'S ALL OVER LIGHTING - BACK OVERLAYS - IS TO THE EXTERMINATOR



HELLCARRIER









COVERS - ILLUSTRATION QUALITY

PRINTS
AT 69%

TITLE HULK

13 MONTH

MARKET
COVERS

COPY
MAILED
COPY
SHEETS
FROM

09/12/00 P.O. 69486 #5560 / 6673 6596

Strathmore

★ **EXTRAS** ★

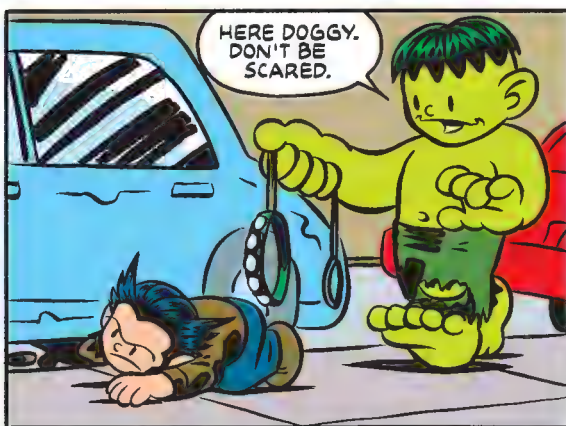
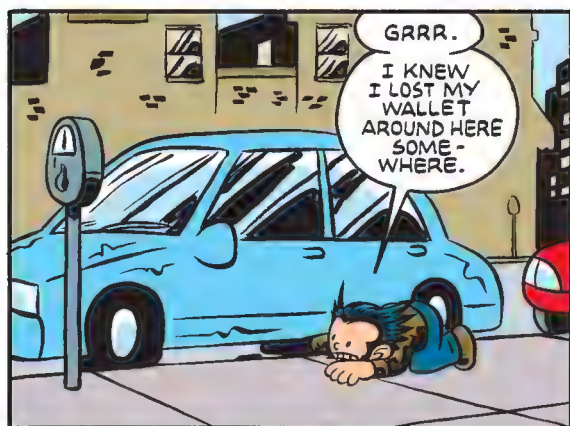
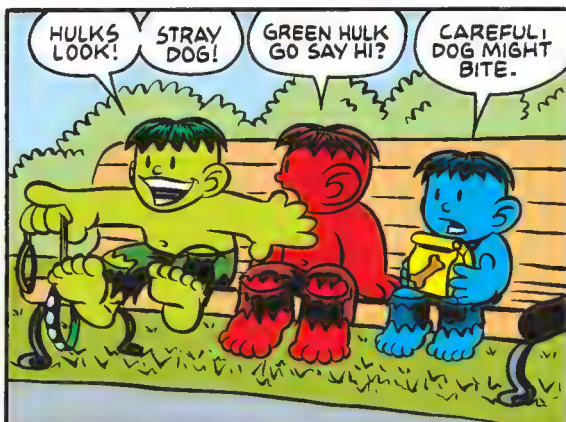


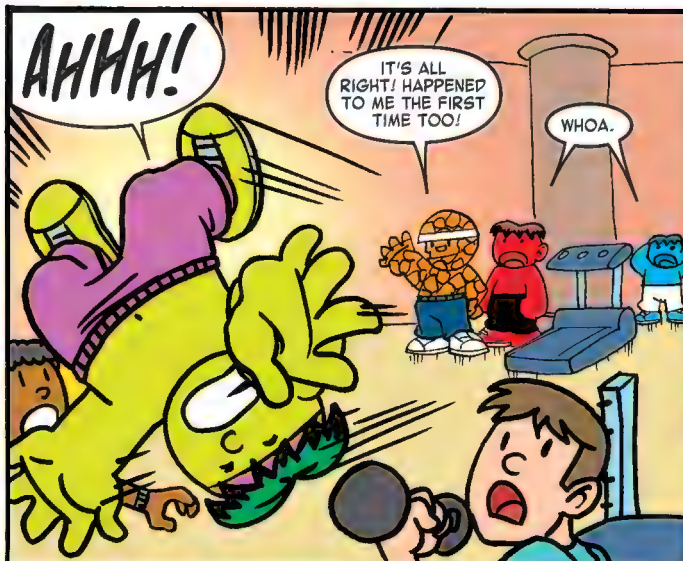
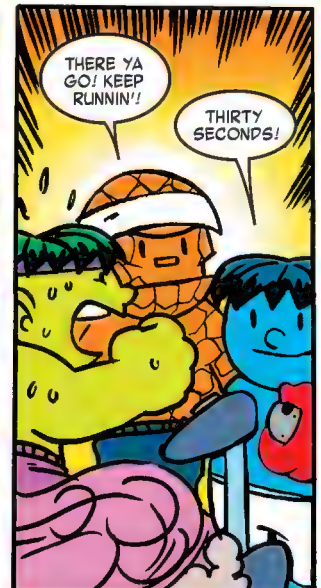
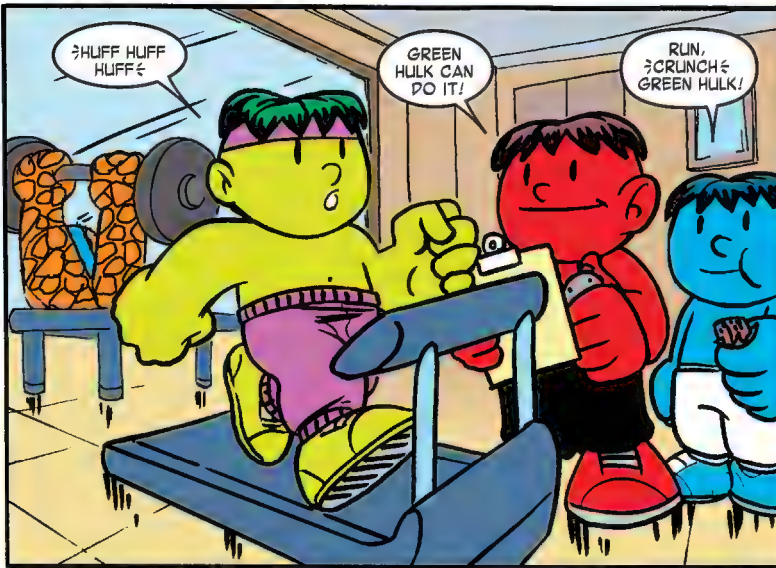
BONUS FEATURES

HULK DOG

WRITTEN BY AUDREY LOEB

ILLUSTRATED BY CHRIS GIARRUSSO chrisGcomics.com



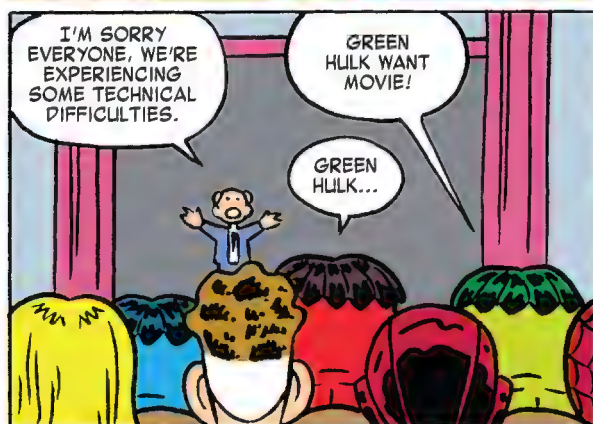
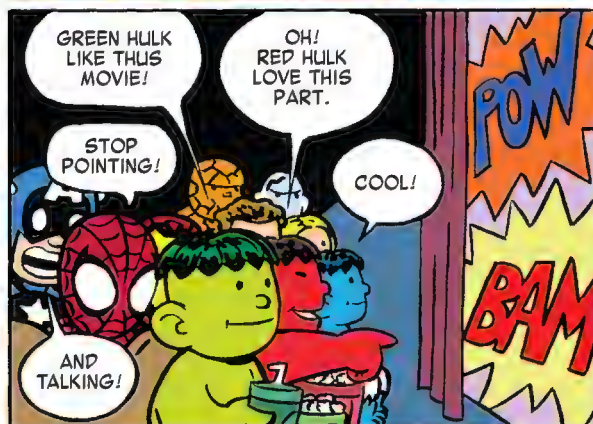
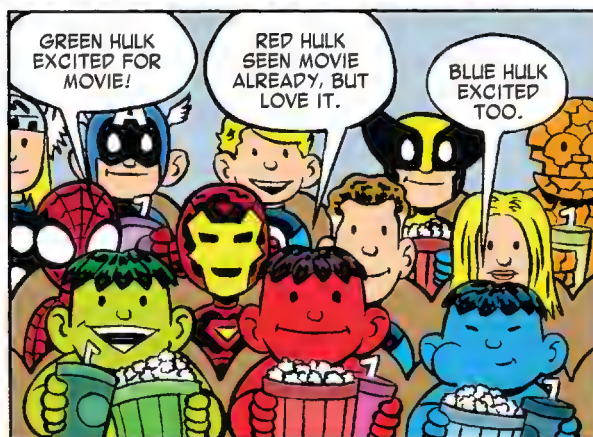


THE END

HULK MOVIE

written by AUDREY LOEB

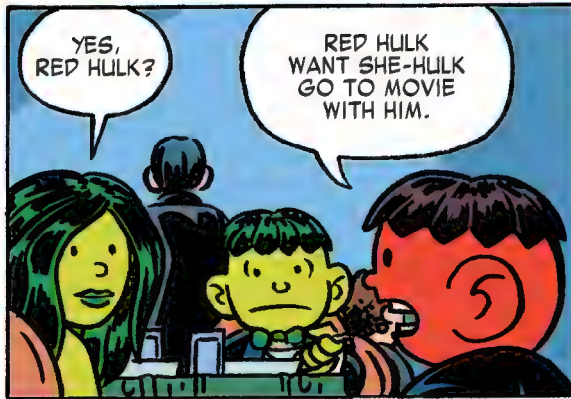
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HULK DATE

written by AUDREY LOEB

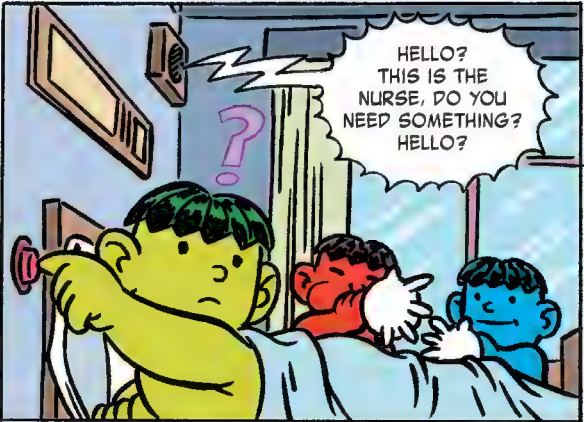
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HULK TONSILS

written by AUDREY LOEB

illustrated by DARIO BRIZUELA



HULK DENTIST

written by AUDREY LOEB

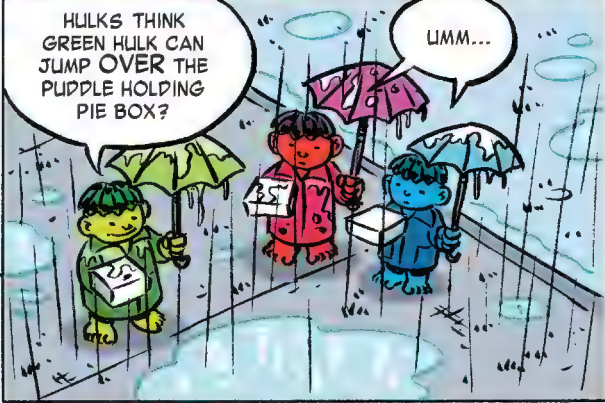
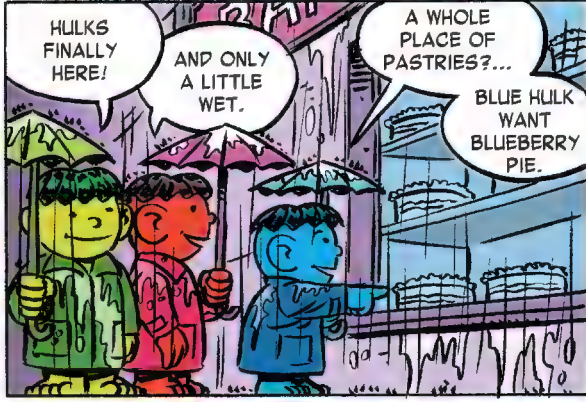
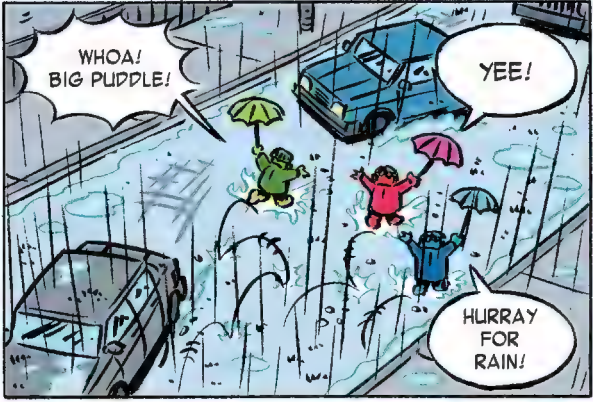
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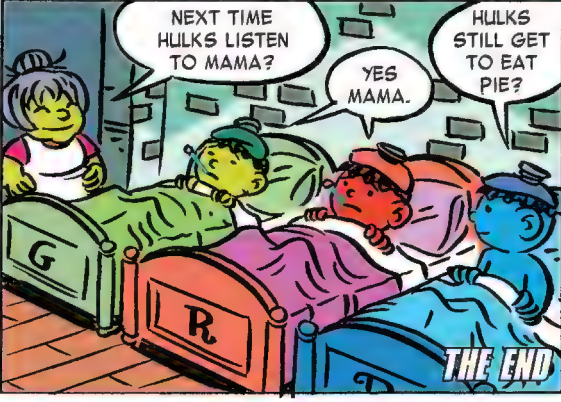
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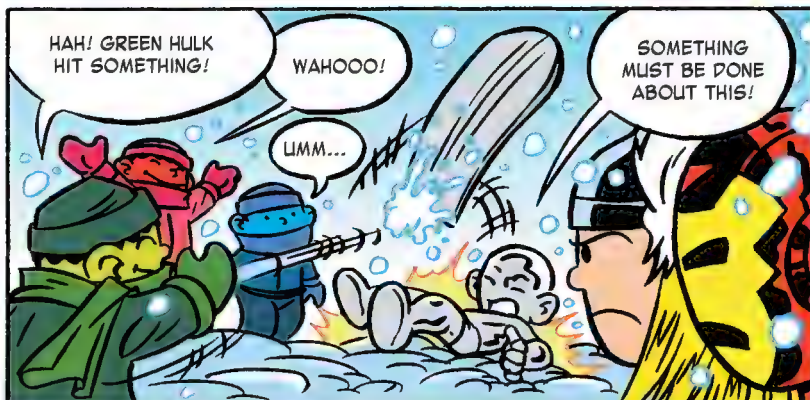
written by AUDREY LOEB illustrated by DARIO BRIZUELA



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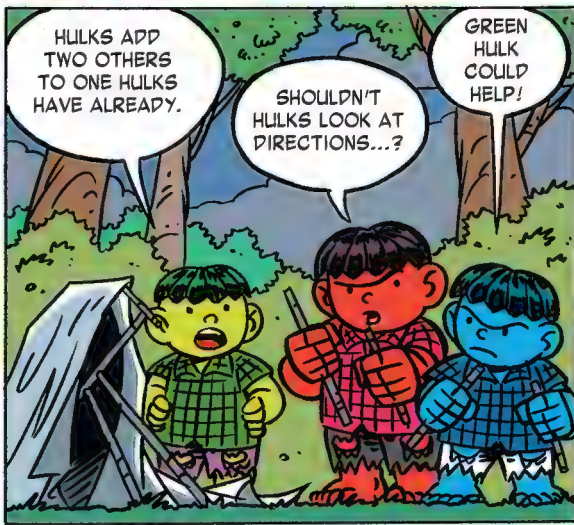
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illustrated by DARIO BRIZUELA



HULK CAMPING

written by AUDREY LOEB illustrated by DARIO BRIZUELA



HULK CAT

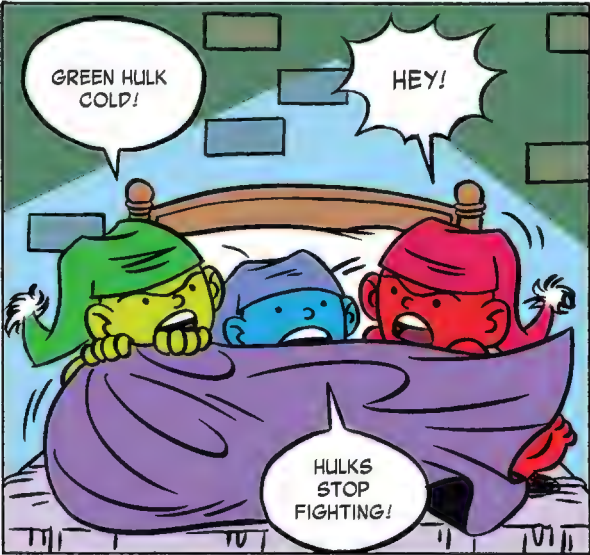
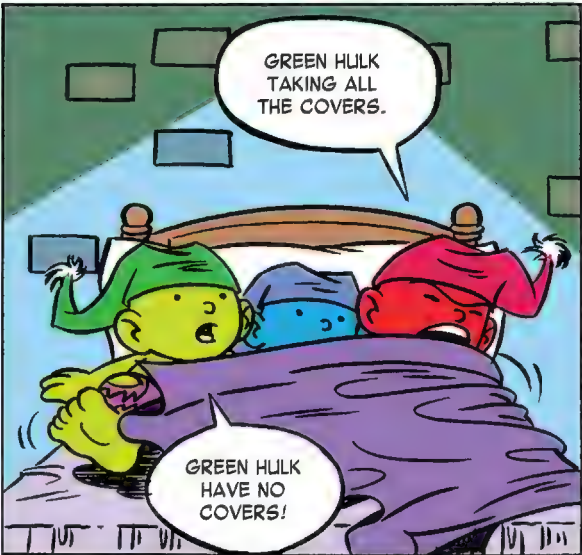
written by **AUDREY LOEB**

illustrated by **DARIO BRIZUELA**



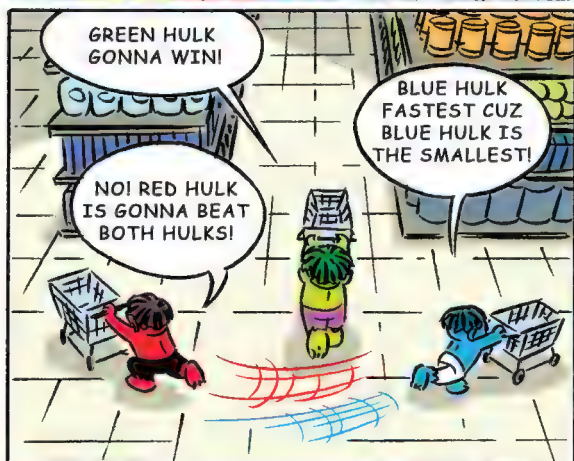
HULK SLEEPOVER

written by **AUDREY LOEB**
illustrated by **DARIO BRIZUELA**



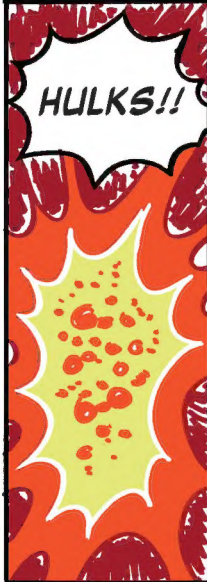
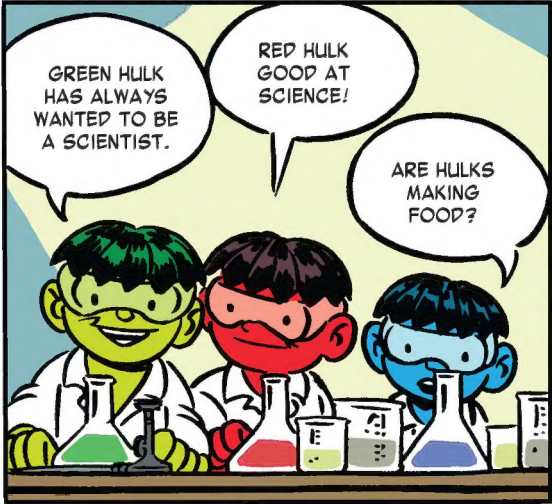
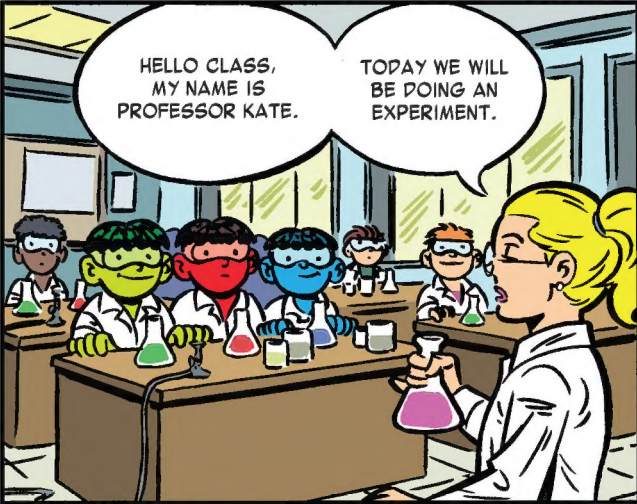
HULK MARKET

written by AUDREY LOEB illustrated by DARIO BRIZUELA



HULK SCIENCE

written by AUDREY LOEB illustrated by DARIO BRIZUELA





ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



It had to be about Simon and Monty.

When Marvel asked Ed McGuinness and me to come onboard HULK after Greg Pak's masterful "Planet Hulk" and "World War Hulk" run, we were intimidated, to say the least. Sure, the Hulk was a character that Ed was born to draw. Yes, I was lucky enough to work on HULK: GRAY with Tim Sale. But, following Pak? Hrrm...

But, Joe Quesada had given us a huge hand up with a very intriguing notion... "How about a RED Hulk...and keeping his identity a secret?"

Well, we knew that the color couldn't be the only difference! With Ed's bombastic abilities it had to be something...wild. Unpredictable. Something that longtime readers and brave new fans could get excited about. Simon and Monty are two such new fans (pictured here). Their enthusiasm not only for the Red Hulk but now for comics in general has made it all worthwhile.



That's what we started with and now, 24 issues (plus the King Sized Hulk and Gamma Special) later, Brian Michael Bendis has paid us the highest compliment of all. This November in AVENGERS, the Red Hulk will be joining the team alongside Thor, Cap and Iron Man. The biggest of the big time. WOW.

I'm so grateful to everyone who made the last three years the most fun I've ever had with my clothes on, starting with the fans and readers, both young and old.

Joe Q, Dan, Tom, Bogart, Gabriel, Arune, Jordan, Richard, JG, Jimmy, Albert, Dex, Tom P. and Mark Farmer, Ian, Arthur, Frank, The Hulk 23 Gang, the countless colorists and production people...

...Greg Pak and Jeff Parker and everyone in the Hulk Pak...

...Nate...(and Audrey, Chris G. & Dario!)...

...Panic...

...and mostly, for my partner-in-crime way up in Maine...

Thanks, Ed.

JEFF LOEB

Los Angeles, 2010

NEW SECRETS & OLD SCARS

Norman Osborn is on the hunt for Red Hulk's identity, but Domino beats him to it!

To keep his secrets, the enraged crimson crasher will have to fight X-Force!

It's Code Red: Punisher! Red Hulk faces Thundra, Crimson Dynamo, Deadpool, Elektra and others—but whose side is the mysterious new Red She-Hulk on?

Red Hulk's rage shifts focus as he discovers a conspiracy to take down the U.S. government—and to fight it, he'll have to unite with Bruce Banner!

But the uneasy alliance fails. Red Hulk's secrets are spilled, and the Hulks go head-to-head!

It's a cataclysmic battle that will settle who comes out on top once and for all!



Collecting HULK (2008) #13-24 and FALL OF THE HULKS: GAMMA #1 —
written by Jeph Loeb; and illustrated by Ed McGuinness,
Ian Churchill, Whilce Portacio and John Romita Jr.

